

Monday

The Olympics
Does the Olympic flame
still burn bright? Part one
of a Spectrum Series



Bloody memorial
Trevor Fishlock visits
Grenada's "museum of
liberation", and sees a
bloodstained shirt

Blitzkrieg
Ferdinand Mount looks
at the Thatcher Blitzkrieg
on middle class privilege

Women's theatre
Monday Page examines
the trials and tribulations
of women's theatre

Rugby
David Hands and Gerald
Davies on Rugby
competitions in England
and Wales

Reprieve for Scott Lithgow

Hopes of saving the Scott
Lithgow yard brightened after
Briton extended the deadline
for cancelling its vital rig order
with the Clyde-side yard.

Trifalgar House is now ready
for detailed talks with Briton
on completion of the North Sea rig,
already two years late. The
extension will give rival bidders
more time to complete nego-
tiations for the yard. Page 21

Kidnap charge

A man aged 27 has been
charged with kidnapping Mr
Ravindra Mhatre, aged 48, the
Indian assistant commissioner
in Birmingham who disap-
peared and was found dead in
Leicestershire.

Yards shake-up

The Royal Dockyards may soon
face competition from private
yards for some warship refit
work, after their efficiency was
criticized by the Comptroller and
Auditor General. Page 2

Benn prediction

Mr Tony Benn said a landslide
Labour victory in next year's
general election would force the
Prime Minister to change course
or lead to her being ousted as
Conservative Party leader. Page 2

Basra shelled

Iranian troops shelled Basra
and claimed to have seized the
oil-rich Iraqi islands in the Al
Hawizah marshes. Page 5

Murder verdict

Norman Smith was found guilty
of the murder of Susan Ren-
hard, an art student, in the
Derbyshire Peak District last
June. He was ordered to be
detained during her Majesty's
pleasure. Page 3

Lyrical shares

The Lyric Theatre, Hammer-
smith, west London, hopes to
raise £100,000 to stage its most
successful productions in the
West End by offering shares
which will attract full tax relief
under the Business Expansion
Scheme. Family money, page 25

ETA jeered

Thousands of mourners
chanting anti-ETA slogans at the
funeral in San Sebastian of the
assassinated Socialist politician,
Enrique Casas Viza. Page 6

Rugby return

Peter Winterbottom returns to
the England Rugby Union team
to play France next week. The
flank forward missed last
Saturday's match against Ire-
land because of a hip injury.
Page 30

Leader page 9
Features, On youth training, from
Letters, On Faithfull, and Mr R
Kilroy-Silk, MP, EEC com-
missioners, from Mr G Harris
transplants from Canon G B
Bentley.
Leading articles: Marriage and
the Church of England; Royal
Society.
Features, pages 6-8
Not an interview with Samuel
Beckett, a rift over the video
nasty report: future of the
British Council; Fleet Street's
permanent silly season.
Obituary, page 10
The Rev Dr Sherwin Bailey,
Colonel W J Shoolbred.

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Murray supports wider action over GCHQ ban

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Union leaders' anger over
Mrs Thatcher's refusal to lift
the union ban at GCHQ could spill
over into direct defiance of
labour laws.

Mr Les Murray, general
secretary of the TUC, said
yesterday that he would support
what could amount to unlawful
secondary action by non civil
service unions on a "day of
action" next Tuesday. Civil
servants have been urged to
hold rallies, demonstrations and
a half-day stoppage.

Speaking on Radio 4 yester-
day, Mr Murray said: "If
members of other unions
support their civil service
colleagues by acting in the same
way, that will be OK by me."

Asked if that would be
unlawful, he said: "I don't
know. What I do know is that it
is a call for just and proper
action in defence of a freedom
intrinsic to democracy. That is
and must be, our paramount
concern."

He urged all trade unionists
to show their "outrage and
repugnance" of government
actions. The labour move-
ment's anger over the ban was
reinforced on Thursday when
Mrs Thatcher met a union
deputation and rejected guaran-
tees on the maintenance of
essential intelligence services at
GCHQ.

Staff at the centre are
exempted from the half-day
strike.
Mr Murray's comments con-
stitute the first time he has in-
effect supported defiance of the
law in any specific dispute,
although he has not acknowl-

edged its illegality. He refused
to countenance support for
unlawful action in the *Stockport
Messenger* dispute.

There is little doubt that the
Cabinet will interpret strikes by
unions outside the Civil Service
as breaching the law on
secondary action. There is little
doubt the courts would agree.

However, it was not clear last
night what support there would
be for such stoppages, although
Mr David Basnett, general
secretary of the General, Manu-
factual, Boilermakers and Al-

Support for industrial action
outside the Civil Service grew
when Mr Les Wood, general
secretary of UCATT, the
280,000-strong construction
workers union, called on mem-
bers to strike for half a day on
Tuesday.

Union leaders feel the
Government's stand is putting
great pressure on those who
have not yet signed option
forms to give up their union
membership or seek a transfer.

Last night in Cheltenham
they organized another staff
meeting and for the first time
since the dispute began, barred
the press because members
wanted to know what to do
next.

Officials want to convince
staff that the March 1 deadline
for signing the forms will not
mark the beginning of dismis-
sals for those refusing to
sign. They believe that Mr Peter
Marychurch, director of
GCHQ, has been given con-
siderable leeway on when to
introduce the ban.

Mr Bill McCall, chairman of
the council's policy committee,
said that the TUC's "inner
cabinet", the finance and

general purposes committee,
which meets in emergency
session on Monday, would be
asked to agree to financial
support should it be needed.

Mr McCall said that initial
legal opinion led them to
believe the unions would have
"good grounds" for taking the
Government to court. He said
anyone dismissed could count
on union support in suing for
damages for breach of contract.

Other legal action is planned
through acts of human rights.
If anyone was dismissed from
GCHQ, there was little doubt it
would provoke "intensive"
industrial action throughout the
Civil Service, Mr McCall said.

Civil Service union officials
last night told GCHQ staff:
"keep your nerves, stay cool;
there is safety in numbers".
(Craig Seton writes).

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Closed forum: Mr Cecil Parkinson, who was jostled, pelted with eggs and prevented from speaking at Essex University in Colchester yesterday.

Tory trio face three hostile receptions

By Staff Reporters

The Prime Minister and two
of her senior colleagues faced
hostile receptions at three
separate venues yesterday.

An egg hit Mrs Margaret
Thatcher's car in Warwick; Mr
Cecil Parkinson was prevented
by a jeering mob from speaking
to Essex University students;
and Mr Norman Tebbit was
told to get on his bike in
Nottingham.

The Prime Minister smiled
throughout her ordeal. The
Secretary of State for Trade
and Industry turned his misfor-
tune to advantage, but Mr
Parkinson, Mr Tebbit's prede-
cessor, was jostled, kicked and
pelted with eggs and tomatoes
in Colchester.

Mrs Thatcher's Daimler was
also showered with paper pie
doves when she arrived at a
noisy reception at Warwick
University to open a new high
technology science building.
One man was dragged from a
crowd of about 600 students
protesting against education
spending cuts and arrested, but
Mrs Thatcher's opponents did
not have it all their own way.
Conservative students chanted
"Cruise On".

The Prime Minister, who
kept smiling throughout her
three-hour visit, said she
thought the students were well
behaved.

Mr Parkinson was pelted
with eggs and rotten tomatoes
when he tried to enter a lecture
theatre at Essex to speak to a
Conservative students meeting.

The former Conservative
chairman tried to reason with
the mob, but his words were
drowned. After consultations
with police and university
officials the meeting was
abandoned.

Essex University said later
many of the demonstrators had
no connection with the univer-
sity.

Mr Tebbit, who was touring
Raleigh of Nottingham, the
world's largest bicycle factory,
told a group of workers
chanting "On yer bike" that
his famous remark might have
helped to sell more bicycles.



Mrs Thatcher: Smiled throughout her ordeal

Traffic on move as blockade ends

By Our Foreign Staff

Traffic began to move again
through France yesterday as the
French lorry drivers lifted
nearly all the blockades which
have paralysed roads for the
past nine days after a call from
their leaders to abandon their
action.

Only six blockades remained
late yesterday of the 200 in
place the previous day, but it is
going to be some days before
traffic gets back to normal.
Huge convoys of long-distance
juggernauts began moving along
the main Alpine motorway
linking France and Italy as
Italian customs officers, whose
go-slow sparked off the original
protest, resumed normal work-
ing. The Brenner Pass between
Austria and Italy was still
blocked, however, by angry
Austrian drivers demanding a
complete reorganization of the
Italian customs system.

In an effort to clear the roads
as quickly as possible, Britain,
Germany and France have
suspended the normal ban on
Sunday driving in Europe, and
the regulations on the number
of hours drivers may spend at
the wheel.

Some French drivers aban-
doned their blockades only
reluctantly after their unions'
appeal, but an ever-growing
number, cold and weary, had
already begun to pull out. The
two main organisations, The
National Road Transport Fed-

eration, and Unotra, made
their decision after M Jacques
Delors, the Acting Prime
Minister, had promised them
talks beginning on Monday if
the drivers began their block-
ade last week in the wake of
industrial action by customs
officers on both sides of the
Franco-Italian border, and it
quickly escalated, in to Europe's
worst ever traffic jam affecting
France, Italy, Britain, Switzer-
land, Austria, Belgium, West
Germany and the Netherlands.

They are demanding quicker
and tighter control on border
crossing procedures, compen-
sation for time lost during the
customs dispute, and a cut in
fuel oil tax.

Talks took place earlier this
week between the Transport
Ministers M Charles Flerman
and drivers' representatives.
The Government put forward a
nine-point plan including re-
vised crossing procedures and
compensation. But the nego-
tiation stalled on the fuel oil
issue.

M Delors has now promised
to discuss increasing the haul-
age industry's competitiveness
by cutting VAT on diesel fuel,
and to consider measures to
improve the driver's conditions
of work.

There was little new in what
he said, but M Delors, who is
Continued on back page, col 6

Rebels hold 16 Britons in Angola

By Our Foreign Staff

Unita, the Angolan rebel
movement claimed yesterday to
have captured 77 foreign tech-
nicians, including 16 Britons
and 46 Portuguese, in an attack
on a diamond mine at Kafunfu
in the north east of the country.

In a statement issued in
Lisbon yesterday the South
African-backed movement said
that the hostages would be
marched south, adding any
intervention by land or air
against the column of hostages
will have serious repercussions
on the captives.

The communiqué also hinted
that conditions would be set for
the release of the Britons. This
condition may be the release of
the seven British mercenaries in
prison in Luanda since 1976.

A spokesman for Mining and
Technical Services (MATSI), the
company for which the British
technicians work, said that from
Unita communiqué two of
them were identifiable as Mr
Neil Ayres, a geologist from
Bristol and Mr Thomas Murphy
an engineer. Two others named
as Mr Robert Clauso and Mr
Robin Kennedy are thought to
work for Intraco and American
company which services mining
equipment.

The spokesman said there
may have been some fighting
and casualties but none among
MATSI staff. There was no news
of the Defence Systems Inter-
national personnel, former SAS
men, who lived on the mine
ostensibly to curb diamond
smuggling.

The Kafunfu mine operated
by the state-owned Diamang
Company is a long way west of
the main mining areas and far
more vulnerable. Kafunfu itself
is the headquarters of an
extensive operation which in-
volves diverting a river and

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WITHIN YOUR REACH

Libyan students occupy London embassy

By Henry Stanhope
Diplomatic Correspondent

A group of students have
seized control of the Libyan
Embassy in London and are
threatening to "break off
diplomatic relations" with
Britain unless Mrs Thatcher's
government mends its ways in
the Middle East.

"Things cannot go on the
way they are," a spokesman
said yesterday at the elegant St
James's Square embassy,
officially described as a people's
bureau in London.
The Revolutionary Students
Force in Britain marched on
the building last weekend,
apparently dissatisfied with the
performance of the ruling

political committee, under its
secretary-general, Mr Adem
Kawli.

News of their bloodless
coup, said to have been carried
out in accordance with resolu-
tions at this month's General
People's Congress in Tripoli,
emerged only yesterday.

Colonel Gaddafi, Libya's
leader, was not consulted
before the students' action. But
the new team at St James's
Square seems confident that
the coup will have his blessing.
"He always approves of popu-
lar movements," said the
spokesman, who explained that
he was the bureau's press
attaché.

The students' "temporary
committee" said at their first

press conference that they
wanted to improve Libya's
relations with Britain and the
West.

"But we look to Britain's
transgression in her hostile
position towards the Libyan
Arab People, her alignment
with the enemies of the Arab
nation and her continued
intervention in the Arab
people's internal affairs. These
will be met with a stronger
and more forceful stand and Britain
alone will bear the responsi-
bility for any consequences,"
they said in a statement.

British support for American
policies which are "unfriendly"
to the Arab people and the
Government's preparedness to
"harbour" enemies of Colonel

Gaddafi's regime, seem to be
the main causes of discontent.

The students refused to give
their names or other details to
the press, but they were rep-
resented. One reporter who
pointed out that they looked
rather old to be students, was
promptly told: "We are all
post-graduates." All claimed to
come from British universities
and polytechnics.

The building certainly
looked quiet enough, apart
from the tramp of reporters'
feet and the glare of television
flashlight.

The Foreign Office too was
taking it all very calmly. "We
are aware of it," a spokesman
said.

Continued on back page, col 1

Killer of art student to be detained at her Majesty's pleasure

From Our Correspondent, Nottingham

Norman Smith was ordered to be detained during Her Majesty's pleasure after a jury of eight women and four men found him guilty yesterday of murdering Susan Renhard, aged 21, in the Derbyshire Peak District last June.



Norman Smith and his victim, Susan Renhard.

Smith, aged 18, was told by Mr Justice Causfield at Nottingham Crown Court: "This jury has convicted you of the offence of murder. The girl you killed, the jury say you strangled. She was a gem amongst maidens. She resisted. I have no doubt, to the death the attack you made upon her modesty."



Smith, a student of Sunny-side Villas, Buxton Road, Castleton, Derbyshire, stood impassively as the jury foreman announced the verdict after a retirement of 2 hours, 40 minutes. Smith's parents were in court as the sentence was given. The judge said that by law there was only one sentence he could pass.

Miss Renhard, an art student at Manchester Polytechnic, was found strangled and partly clothed at Cavendish, a beauty spot in the Peak District on June 27 last year. She was engaged to be married and had gone out to take photographs as part of a college course on graphics and design.

Smith admitted meeting her, but denied hitting her or strangling her. Mr Martin Thomas, QC, for the defence claimed that Miss Renhard was still alive when Smith left the scene, and suggested that someone else may have come along later and killed her.

The dead girl's father, Mr David Renhard, a retired law lecturer, of West Hagley, Stourbridge, Worcestershire, said after the verdict: "It has been a very stressful and emotional week. To see a young man sent down for life is very distressing whatever the verdict."

"We miss our daughter very much. It is impossible to make up for a lost daughter. I was really touched by the remarks of the judge about the sort of girl Susan was. She was just like that. She was very humorous and a lovely girl."

He added: "The police have been wonderful throughout the investigation. Both sets of parents were in court every day of the week-long trial. Smith's mother and father were in the public gallery when the verdict was announced."

Smith's mother, Mrs Shirley Smith, said after the case: "We are shattered by this. I still believe it was an accident. It was not premeditated."

Her husband, Jim, said: "My wife and I both feel deep sorrow for Susan's family but we also have sorrow ourselves. We hope we are strong enough as a family to survive. There is tremendous support in the village and we hope Norman will come home quickly."



Vintage port: Mr Brian Tyrrell, aged 47, a fisherman for 31 years, and some of 24 new storage huts in traditional style at Whitstable Harbour, Kent, officially handed over to skippers yesterday. They replace huts on the east side to be demolished for port improvements. (Photograph: Tony Weaver).

More flexible education with computers

New technology will open up further education to women because it is being taught more flexibly than other subjects. Lady Platt of Writtle, chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, said yesterday.

She told students and staff at Birmingham Polytechnic that it was vital to give a second chance to those who had missed out at school.

Plans to introduce a flexible system of further education in the next few years, including the chance for people to build up a number of credits in a subject at their own pace and to learn from home, would open up opportunities for many

Crash pilots' bravery praised

Verdicts of accidental death were recorded yesterday on all 20 victims of the helicopter crash in the sea off the Isles of Scilly last July. There were six survivors from British Airways' Oscar November helicopter.

Earlier, the inquest at Penzance was told by one of the survivors that the courage of the pilots prevented even greater loss of life.

Mrs Lucile Langley-Williams, aged 62, said: "I think it would be very sad if we lost sight of what the captains did in the water."

"Bearing in mind the responsibility they had already had, and the sadness we all felt, they were absolutely incredible."

Mrs Langley-Williams, her voice breaking with emotion as she recalled the tragedy, said: "Without them, our story could well have had a very different ending. They kept us going."

Captain Dominic Lawlor, aged 37, and Captain Neil Charlton, aged 30, survived. The other survivors were Mrs Langley-Williams's fellow Isles of Scilly councillor, Mrs Megan Smith, aged 61; Ellen Hanslow, aged 15, and Howard Goddard, aged 11.

Mrs Langley-Williams described how Mrs Smith was saved by a suitcase. "The two children and the pilots were swimming nearby. Captain Lawlor was with Howard and Captain Charlton with Ellen."

"After a while Captain Charlton asked if I was alright and I said I was flagging. He came over and as he did so a suitcase came out and he brought it up. Together we got Megan onto the suitcase."

Mrs Langley-Williams joined Ellen while Captain Charlton stayed with Mrs Smith. The sea was like a mill pond but they swam in twos in a little circle surrounded by mist, she said. They heard two helicopters overhead and once saw an aircraft "like a Dinky toy" in a patch of blue sky.

The lifeboat coxswain, Mr Matt Lethbridge, said that he followed a "slight mark" on his radar scanner to find the survivors.

Greenwich museum to charge for entry

By David Hewson

The Government has hinted that it will allow national museums to introduce admission charges and retain the profits from their shops and publications divisions.

The far-reaching decision became public yesterday when the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich announced that it had reached agreement to introduce admission charges from April 2.

Nationally funded museums have always been free to introduce admission charges, but have been reluctant to do so because the profits entrance tickets bring have automatically accrued to the Treasury.

The Greenwich museum has reached a unique agreement with the Office of Arts and Libraries that the receipts will remain with the museum on the understanding that they will not be used to employ extra staff or build new extensions. The interim agreement is likely to be ratified into a new deal for all nationally-funded museums and galleries which could come into force next year.

The first effect of the move will be to enable the Greenwich museum to reopen on Mondays, after a gap of three years. Later, the money will be used to improve and develop the quality of service.

A combined ticket to the main building and the Old Royal Observatory will cost £1.50, and admission to either £1. A family ticket, for two adults and up to five children, will be available for £4. A combined ticket will be available to children, students, pensioners, disabled people and the unemployed for 75p.

Local residents, living in Greenwich, Lewisham or Tower Hamlets, will be eligible for a neighbourhood ticket, valid for one year, for 40p if they produce some form of identification.

Sikh wins damages against club

A Sikh was yesterday awarded damages against a golf club after a judge ruled that it refused him membership on the grounds of race. Pramjit Singh Hothi, of Teague's Crescent, Telford, Shropshire, was awarded damages of £150 and costs against the Wrekin Golf Club, Shropshire.

Birmingham County Court was told that Mr Hothi, aged 40, a postal supervisor, took up golf after a back injury stopped him playing cricket. Mr Edward Coke, counsel for Mr Hothi, said his client was the only applicant to be excluded by the club's committee during the last 30 years. Mr Hothi told the court: "It happened because I am a Sikh. They probably thought that me walking around in a turban wouldn't look nice."

The club denied racial discrimination. The secretary, Mr John Bowen, the captain, Mr John Cooper and the vice-captain, Mr Edward Allen, all said the application was rejected because Mr Hothi had adopted an aggressive attitude at his interview.

Judge Wilson, sitting with two magistrates ordered the club to reconsider Mr Hothi's application for membership.

Standard up 1p

The price of *The Standard*, London's evening newspaper, will go up by 1p to 18p from Monday. Increasing costs are blamed for the rise.

Mint strikes gold in East

The Royal Mint has struck a HK\$1,000 dollar coin (about \$90) commissioned by the Hongkong Government to commemorate the Chinese lunar year of the Rat.

The coins (right) have been struck in 22 carat gold and weigh 15.98g (a little more than half an ounce) and measure 28.40mm (just over an inch). It has been struck in proof quality, regarded by many as the true test of the mint's craft, in quantities of only 10,000.

The proof coin has a frosted finish to the relief design and a mirror-like background. The bright unscratched coin has been struck to an issue limit of only 20,000.

The proof costs £250 and the bright unscratched £235 (including value-added tax), and each is supplied in a display case. Further details are available from the Royal Mint Coin Club, PO Box 500, Cardiff CF1 1HA.



Heart fears boost sales of low-fat milk

Sales of low fat and long-life milk have increased sharply in the past two weeks, after publicity linking high-fat foods with heart attack.

Express Dairies, Britain's third largest dairy, delivering to 1,250,000 homes a day, said sales have risen by 10 per cent, with customers switching from fresh milk.

Unigate, which delivers to three million homes, said sales of fresh skimmed milk now accounted for about five per cent of deliveries. "We were the first company in Britain to launch a fresh skimmed milk and sales have shown consistent improvement, especially recently," a spokesman said.

Two *World in Action* television programmes this month, dealt with damage allegedly caused to arteries by eating polyunsaturated fats found in many dairy products.

Air crash report blames door defects

By Richard Evans
An airliner which crashed in 1981 killing three people after a baggage door flew open was of a type which had a "history of door defects", an official report has disclosed.

The BAe 748 twin-turboprop airliner, operated by Dan-Air, plunged into a field at Nailstone, Leicestershire, after the rear door was torn from its hinges and lodged on the tailplane, making the aircraft uncontrollable.

The report, published by the accident investigation branch of the Department of Transport, says that there have been 35 instances since 1962, the year the BA3 748 went into service, when a baggage door has opened in flight. On 13 of those occasions the door separated

from the aircraft and "five of these struck the tailplane, occasionally causing considerable damage."

Since the Leicestershire crash the Civil Aviation Authority has issued a series of instructions to improve operating procedures involving the doors of the 748.

British Aerospace, manufacturers of the 748, has introduced design changes covering the door and its warning system after discussions between the authority, operators and manufacturer.

The 1981 crash involved Dan-Air flight 240 carrying light mail from Gatwick to East Midlands airport at Castle Donington. The baggage door opened minutes before the plane was due to land, separated

from its hinges and was caught on the leading edge of the starboard tail plane.

Mr L. Shaddick, the accident inspector, says in his report that the door was not properly locked when the aircraft took off, because of a "mis-rigging" in the lock mechanism.

"The crew were unaware until a late stage in the flight of the unsafe condition of the baggage door and this was due to a combination of shortcomings in the design, construction and maintenance of the door warning systems and the appearance of visual indications."

Report of the accident to BAe HS 748 G-AJSP, at Nailstone, Leicestershire on 20 June 1981. (Accident Investigation Branch, Department of Transport. Price 8.50).

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'Buck was passed' at Law Society

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

An internal inquiry by the Law Society into its handling of the case of a solicitor who overcharged a client by more than £130,000 is expected to lay blame on the society's council for failure to act on the client's behalf.

Despite some opposition to publication from "old guard" members of the council, the report is due out on Monday in what is being seen as an exercise in frankness on the society's part.

The inquiry was set up after Mr Glanville Davies, a solicitor and council member of the society for 15 years, was ordered to be struck off by a High Court judge last October for overcharging a client by £131,000.

The High Court case was launched by the client, Mr Leslie Parsons, a South Wales businessman, after the Law Society had failed to act on his complaints.

The findings of the inquiry by three council members under Mr Philip Ely were described yesterday by another council member as "frank" and "getting to the bottom of the whole case".

He said Mr Parsons' original complaint ran to about 70 pages and no one bothered to sit down and read it because it was so complicated. It was the old story of the buck being passed on and on and eventually coming to rest on the wrong lap.

He said that the inquiry report names council members who held positions of authority at the time, but that it blames the entire council, as the body which delegates power.

Another inquiry into the case has been conducted by the ombudsman for solicitors' clients, Major-General John Allen, whose criticisms of the Law Society were tempered by general remarks that there had been an improvement in the way the society handles complaints. His report provoked criticism from the Legal Action Group, a 3,000-member association of lawyers, which said the findings were slanted in favour of the society. General Allen denies bias.

Radio opening

Mrs Gertrude Phillipson, aged 105, is to open Radio Trafford 231, Greater Manchester, one of the BBC's experimental neighbourhood radio stations, tomorrow.

Promise to give tenants of charities cash discount may cost £600m

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

The Government's enthusiasm for extending tenants' right to buy their homes may have landed it with a £600m bill for which £10m has been allocated in 1984-85.

That is because the Government wishes to give tenants of charitable housing associations the same rights as council and other housing association tenants.

Last year, the Government bowed to pressure and dropped the proposal after parts of the Housing and Building Control Bill were defeated in the House of Lords. Peers and housing groups argued that even though charitable housing associations had accepted public money for building, giving tenants the right to buy would disrupt their work.

The Government later promised to allow housing associations tenants help to choose a house on the open market. On buying it they would receive the cash equivalent of the discount they would have received if they

had bought their own home as sitting tenants. The Government would pay the cash discount through the Housing Corporation.

But officials considering how to frame this promise in the revised Housing and Building Control Bill, now before the Lords, were alarmed to discover how much it could cost.

About 100,000 tenants of

charitable housing associations are eligible. If they all claimed an average discount of £6,000, the Government would be committed to finding £600m. Even if only a fraction claimed discounts, the provision would cost considerably more than the "fairly insignificant amount", which the Housing Corporation said.

The corporation said: "Discussions are still going on with the Department of the Environment".

The National Housing and town Planning Council, a lobbying group, said that even if the £600m figure was notional, the eventual cost of the government promise - made just before Christmas by Mr Ian Gow, minister for Housing and Construction.

If a housing association tenant bought another house and moved, the incoming tenant would immediately start building up eligibility for a discount if and when they chose to purchase a house.



Mr Gow: Announced decision

Warning of Chianti risk 'unfair'

The wine producers of Chianti said yesterday that they had been treated unfairly by Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Minister for Health, who earlier this week said that a combination of drinking the wine and taking certain anti-depressants could be fatal.

The Italian wine contains high levels of tyramine, a substance which cannot be metabolized in patients receiving treatment with the monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs) group of anti-depressants.

The Italian producers of Chianti Classic said that patients taking the drug are warned by their doctors to avoid a whole range of food and drink.

However, the manufacturers of the drug specifically mention "completely avoiding Chianti wine".

But the same company says that changes in production methods in recent years had almost eliminated the presence of tyramine "and there is no more tyramine in Chianti than in any other table wine".

Chemical warfare tests on troops

The Government has admitted that servicemen have been used in chemical warfare experiments at Porton Down, Wiltshire.

Mr John Lee, Under Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, said on Thursday that volunteers had for many years participated in experiments vital to chemical warfare research.

Mr Tony Banks, Labour MP for Newham North-West, immediately tabled Commons questions asking for details, and whether participants were genuine volunteers.

Mr Lee had told him: "Tests are carefully controlled and

great care is taken to ensure the health and well-being of volunteers. These experiments make a vital contribution to the establishment's work in ensuring the protection of our forces against the threat of chemical attack".

Mr Banks said: "It beggars belief that anyone would genuinely volunteer to be used for experiments involving chemical warfare".

"We therefore need to know who these people are, and whether they have perhaps been coaxed into volunteering for experiments which are clearly dangerous".

Regalia thief jailed

A cleaner who stole the silver-gilt chain of office of the Lord Lyon, who is in charge of heraldry and genealogy in Scotland, was jailed for a year at Edinburgh Sheriff Court yesterday.

Thomas Hill, aged 48, of West Granton Grove, Edinburgh, who worked at New

Register House in Edinburgh, which houses the Lord Lyon's office, also admitted stealing the silver Clan Fergus baton and other silverware between July and November last year after he found a key in a drawer.

His total haul was worth about £11,000, but he sold the items to a dealer for £485.

'What's My Line?' to return

What's My Line?, the television panel game last screened 21 years ago, is being revived by Thames Television. The first programme will be screened live on March 26.

The chairman will be Eamonn Andrews, and on its panel will be the comedian Eric Morecambe, the actress Barbara Kelly, the writer Jill Cooper, the journalist George Gale, and another member yet to be named. Miss Kelly and Mr Andrews both appeared on the first programme, transmitted by the BBC in July 1951.

Thames' director of light entertainment, Mr Philip Jones, said yesterday that What's My Line?, which involves panelists questioning guests to discover the unusual jobs they do, "remains one of the best television panel games ever devised".

Ministry check on drink case

The Home Office has asked yesterday for a transcript of the admission of a drink-driving charge against Robert Todd, a trombone player, at Basingstoke Magistrates' Court on Thursday.

The musician said he used camphor spirit on his lips when performing and that this caused the high reading on an Intoximeter machine.

Two accused of murder

Two men were remanded in custody for a week at Canterbury Magistrates' Court yesterday charged with the murder of Mr Robert Perry, a security guard, who was shot last week while delivering in Norwood, south London.

They were charged with the murder of Mr Perry, a security guard, who was shot last week while delivering in Norwood, south London.

Newsagent raid charges

Three men charged with robbing Peckham newsagent, Mr Harry Tipton, were remanded in custody for a week at Tower Bridge Magistrates' Court yesterday.

Charles Bridges, aged 24, from Peckham, south London, was charged with the robbery, along with two other men, aged 27 and 28, both from Peckham.

Mr Bridges was charged with the robbery, along with two other men, aged 27 and 28, both from Peckham.

Boys find £3,500

A carrier bag containing £3,500 was found in a car park in Fakenham, Norfolk, yesterday, by Andrew Smith and Paul Utting, both aged 10.



Getting acquainted: The Prince of Wales meeting children from the Brunei international school in Muzra, outside the capital.

Brunei displays its hardware

From David Watts, Reader Seri Begawan, Brunei

The last big independence celebration in South-east Asia came to an end yesterday with a display by Brunei's small but effective forces.

The executive jets, luxury yachts and merrymaking were put aside for a while as the Brunei armed forces paraded their immaculate equipment through the city and down the busy Brunei River.

For a Sultan who has just been crowned as an honorary general in the British Army, Mr Mada Hassanal Bolkiah's timing has been less than precise. Last night he kept his banquet guests waiting for more than an hour and a half, and he was again some 40 minutes late for the military march past.

But the British heritage of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces

was unmistakable, from the snappy salutes to the carefully blacked tyres of the Land Rovers and the blue Rapier anti-aircraft missiles.

The parade of land forces over, Brunei's small but potent fleet of Exocet-equipped fast patrol boats cruised down the Brunei River making a bizarre contrast with the houses on stilts of Kampong Ayer, with the water village behind.

Charles boarded one of the vessels for a trip down the river to Muzra, where he lunched with British officers seconded to the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and met British community schoolchildren.

The children, with their carefully hand-coloured Union Jacks, were cheering the Prince before he was in sight. It was one of the most vivid moments

of the visit. The children seemed to bring the Prince alive. To them he confessed that his one disappointment was not to have been able to play polo. A torrential down-pour, which soaked some of the banquet guests on Thursday night, appeared to destroy any chance of that.

Not only the Prince will be disappointed: The Sultan's polo ponies had already admired the Prince's form on horseback and had looked forward to seeing him take part in a contest which would have involved the royalty of at least four countries: Brunei, Britain, Malaysia and Nepal.

On Sunday the Prince will conclude his stay by visiting the British Army Gurkha battalion stationed in the Seria Outfields.

Soviet economists told to pull their socks up

Moscow (Reuters) - Soviet economists have been told that their remedies for the country's ills are inadequate or out of touch with reality and they must reshape their attitudes.

A decree from the Communist Party Central Committee published on the front page of Pravda yesterday criticized almost every aspect of the work of the Economic Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

The institute was told to tackle more of the country's concrete economic problems and take the advice of factory workers and those involved in dealing with day-to-day problems.

Western diplomats analysing the statement said it appeared to back up the impression given in recent speeches of Politburo members that the experimental reforms introduced under the late President Andropov would continue.

The new party leader, Mr Konstantin Chernenko, was closely associated with former President Brezhnev and the more lax attitude towards the economy which prevailed under him.

Some diplomats said that many parts of Mr Chernenko's speech to the party plenum last

June were echoed in yesterday's criticism of the state of Soviet economic science.

The economists were told: "Take part in carrying out economic experiments. The implementation of the results of research should be considered the most important task of the institute".

Mr Vitaly Voronnikov, aged 57, one of the younger Politburo members who had a meteoric rise under the brief Andropov rule, said in a speech also published in Pravda that it was important for there to be no let-up in the pace of economic reform.

Mr Voronnikov, once banished by Mr Brezhnev to an ambassadorial post, now holds the powerful position of Premier of the Russian Federation, the largest of the 15 Soviet republics. He was careful to add that he was conveying views also held by Mr Chernenko.

Some analysts said it appeared that Mr Chernenko, who in his speech accepting the party leadership said he would continue on the path of reform but with a "look before you leap" attitude, was not about to hamper moves that could help the economy.



Heads together: Chancellor Kohl and Signor Craxi after their talks in Bonn.

Kohl and Craxi share EEC hopes

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Chancellor Helmut Kohl flew to Paris yesterday for talks with President Mitterrand on what can be done to end the crisis in the European Community.

He told a press conference before leaving that a breakdown of the Brussels summit next month would have catastrophic consequences, but said there were real chances of success if all sides showed good will.

His cautious hopes were echoed by Signor Bettino Craxi, the Italian Prime Minister, who ended a day of consultations here yesterday morning by declaring that there had to be compromises on all sides.

Signor Craxi, however, was noticeably cool to suggestions which have been voiced here recently - that the six founding members of the Community, in particular France and Germany, should take the lead in pushing for European unity, without waiting for agreement from the other members.

He said all ten members had interests in a balance and a solution to their own special problems. But any solution should not lead to new imbalances - a clear hint that Italy's suspicion of any suggestion of a Franco-German hegemony in the Community.

Signor Craxi, who described his country's relations with Germany as excellent, also said that Europe should not be limited to agriculture which would be nonsensical.

Chancellor Kohl added that decisive steps had to be taken towards political integration to give a reality to the Treaty of Rome.

Advertising code for Euro-TV

From Ian Murray, Brussels

A new code of conduct for television advertising has been approved by all 21 member governments of the Council of Europe. Its aim is to impose common standards on broadcasting authorities before the arrival of satellite television on screens through Europe.

The new code means that advertisers would have to take the law into account, not only in the country of transmission but in any other country where there was an audience.

The potentially harmful consequences of tobacco, drugs, medical and alcohol advertisements also have to be taken into consideration, while no use can be made of children which could harm them in any way.

The code also insists that advertisements have to be grouped, clearly identifiable and not of excessive length, "subliminal" advertisements where a message is flashed very briefly into the subconscious from the screen - are also out.

Hongkong proposals questioned

From David Bonavia, Hongkong

The Anglo-Chinese negotiations on the future of Hongkong took an unexpected twist yesterday. When Mr Richard Leung, senior unofficial member of the Legislative Council, called for a debate on the proposals being worked out in Peking.

Meanwhile a mini-summit of British officials involved in the discussions is to be held here on Sunday. Sir Richard Evans, the British Ambassador to China, and Mr Richard Leung, Minister of State with responsibility for Hongkong, are expected here for discussions with the Governor, Sir Edward Youde.

The appointed unofficial members of the Legislative Council have a certain moral authority, as representing the views of local people as against the ex-officio members. But Peking will be upset if a debate brings any questioning of the basic principle that Hongkong is Chinese territory.

Swiss vote on national service

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

In another of their soul-searching national referendums the Swiss decide this weekend if their young men are to have the choice of opting for a civilian service - for example in hospitals - as an alternative to compulsory military service.

The issue is regarded as momentous for the concept of a neutral Switzerland, protected by its citizen-soldiers, for whom "Our Army is not an institution which stands apart from the

Opponents of a free choice for youths when they reach the military age of 20 fear this would gradually lead to an erosion of the Army's mobilization strength of 625,000 through refusal of military service is only 2 per cent.

Given the depth of feeling for the Army, which also provides an annual get-together for men with common professional interests, civilian service has little chance of being accepted.

Which page will you turn to first in tomorrow's Sunday Times?

The Patels of Britain

How the hardworking Patels have prospered - some have become millionaires - by keeping their small businesses open late into the night, 7 days a week.

The Labour Party

On the eve of the Chesterfield by-election, we look at the state of Neil Kinnock's Labour Party.

The Week in Focus

Ian MacGregor, Chairman of The National Coal Board, on the future for coal.

David Dimbleby on his dispute with the NUJ.

People

The new image of Princess Anne.

THE BUDGET

In Business News

Exclusive: The London Business School eve-of-budget forecast for the British economy.

In Look

What the Chancellor could do for women by stopping the £300m a year levy on marriage.



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Snowdon plea for disabled

HOUSE OF LORDS

Disabled people did not demand sympathy, they asked only for their rights denied to them, the Earl of Snowdon said in the House of Lords during the committee stage of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Amendment) Bill, sponsored by the Earl of Longford (Lab), the purpose of which is to make discrimination against the disabled unlawful.

The Earl of Snowdon said it was a fiction that those who practised discrimination were brutes. The truth was that they were not monsters but frail human beings who regarded disability, he was sorry to say, with contempt.

It was a tragic pity that a law was needed to protect the disabled from the denial of their elementary rights. They were not asking this as a charitable handout or favour but as a right.

They do not (he said) reproach their unthinking fellow citizens. They ask only their unthinking fellow citizens to think. Legislation cannot itself bring to an end the suffering of disabled people but it would be a huge step forward to that noble end.

Lord Cresswell, Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, said the Government did not accept the need for a Bill of this kind and did not propose to give it any sustenance at any further stage.

While it fully shared the abhorrence so powerfully expressed by Lord Snowdon, it did not believe there was sufficient evidence of discrimination against disabled people to warrant the complex and expensive regulatory machine the Bill sought to provide.

In view of the Government position on the Bill, he did not propose to comment on any of the amendments on the individual amendments.

Orange badges black market

There was a black market in orange badges, the Conservative Justice (SDP) said at question time in the House of Lords.

He claimed that badges supplied to disabled people who had since died were being sold on the open market to active people, instead of being returned to the authorities.

Lady Trussington, the Government spokeswoman, said she had no evidence to suggest this was so. Badges were valid for only 12 years which limited the scope for abuse.

She reported that since the offence of misuse of the orange badge came into force in October 1981 there had, up to the end of 1982, been seven prosecutions.

The Government was reviewing the arrangements for the issue and establishment whether further guidance would be helpful in the quest to notify the local authorities of misuse of the scheme.

Political appointments in London attacked

COMMONS

Disproportionate increases in rates only encouraged potential entrepreneurs to go elsewhere rather than come to London, Sir George Young, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, said in the Commons in reply to a question.

He said that the Government was withdrawing all legislative proposals for dismantling the structure and destroying the direct accountability of the Greater London Council and the Inner London Council and the Inner London Education Authority. The motion was talked out.

He said that he agreed that there were threats to the democracy of Londoners in the activities of the mob at Brent in the breaking of the distinction between elected politicians and neutral officers. The integrity of public service had been undermined by a series of political appointments in London.

There was plenty of opportunity to make savings in the GLC, he said, but it was well known that the Prime Minister did not share the view that her party or elsewhere, and there was a worrying personal element in many of her political decisions. The Government was not prepared to do a major restructuring of the democratic process in London.

He would rather see the election of a Tory GLC through the ballot box than see a Tory Government try to neuter and emasculate the democratic process in London.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham, North West, Lab), a member of the GLC, in moving the motion, said it was well known that the Prime Minister did not share the view that her party or elsewhere, and there was a worrying personal element in many of her political decisions. The Government was not prepared to do a major restructuring of the democratic process in London.

Iran shells Basra and claims capture of oil-rich Iraqi islands

Tehran (AFP, Reuters) - Iranian forces claimed continued progress into Iraq yesterday in a series of reported successes which were followed by renewed Iraqi missile attacks on Iranian civilians after a 10-day suspension. There was also retaliatory shelling by Iran of Basra, on the Shatt al Arab waterway.



A Tehran military communiqué said that its troops had seized the Majnoon islands in the Al-Hawz marshes, a 76-square-mile area between the Iranian border and the Baghdad-Basra highway. Iraq has about 50 oil wells there.

More than 1,000 Iraqis were killed in the battle, the communiqué claimed, bringing the Iraqi toll to more than 3,500 since the defensive began on Wednesday.

The statement followed reports of a massive attack north-east of Iraq's chief port and oil terminal of Basra on the Shatt al Arab.

But Iran effectively retracted a report yesterday that its forces had taken the town of Al-Qurnah, 30 miles north of Basra, where the Tigris and Euphrates rivers join to form the Shatt al Arab. It was claimed, however, that the Baghdad-Basra highway had been reached at several points, and that Al-Qurnah could be taken "when necessary".

But a Reuters correspondent, Subby Haddad, one of the first reporters to reach the town on Thursday evening reported that it was still firmly in Iraqi hands. Haddad said he saw no signs of Iraqis in the vicinity of the town and quoted local officials as saying that the town's residents and armed peasants had helped the Iraqi army to wipe out an attacking Iranian force seven miles further east.

Haddad quoted the Iraqi officials as saying more than 1,500 Iraqis had been killed and 350 taken prisoner.

The Iraqi Government ridiculed the Iranian report, said no Iraqi territory had been captured. It said more than 4,770 Iraqis had been killed on two fronts since Wednesday evening.

An Iraqi communiqué confirmed the strength of the

offensive, disclosing that fighting was taking place over a front almost 60 miles long, and that Iranian troops had succeeded in penetrating at least 16 miles into the country.

The Iraqi Defence Minister, General Adnan Keirallah, said that his forces had repulsed an Iranian attack on Ahwar, 22 miles from the border and seven miles west of the Tigris.

In another development, the Iraqi News Agency reported a dogfight over Khafagieh, deep inside Iran, in which an Iranian F14 jet was shot down.

An earlier bulletin disclosed that the Iraqis have made heavy demands on their Air Force since the start of the offensive.

In the first 24 hours of combat, Iraqi fighter-bombers and helicopters flew 229 missions, inflicting "heavy losses in human lives and equipment", a statement said, but did not mention Iranian reports of renewed attacks on civilian targets.

Iran also said its forces shelled the Basra yesterday after Iraq fired missiles at two Iranian cities, killing 59 civilians and wounding 350.

The Iranian News Agency, Irna, said the Iraqi missile attacks during the night killed 36 people in Khorramabad and 23 in Borjerd, both in Iran's Lorestan province.

Exiled Iran leader makes Gulf arms plea

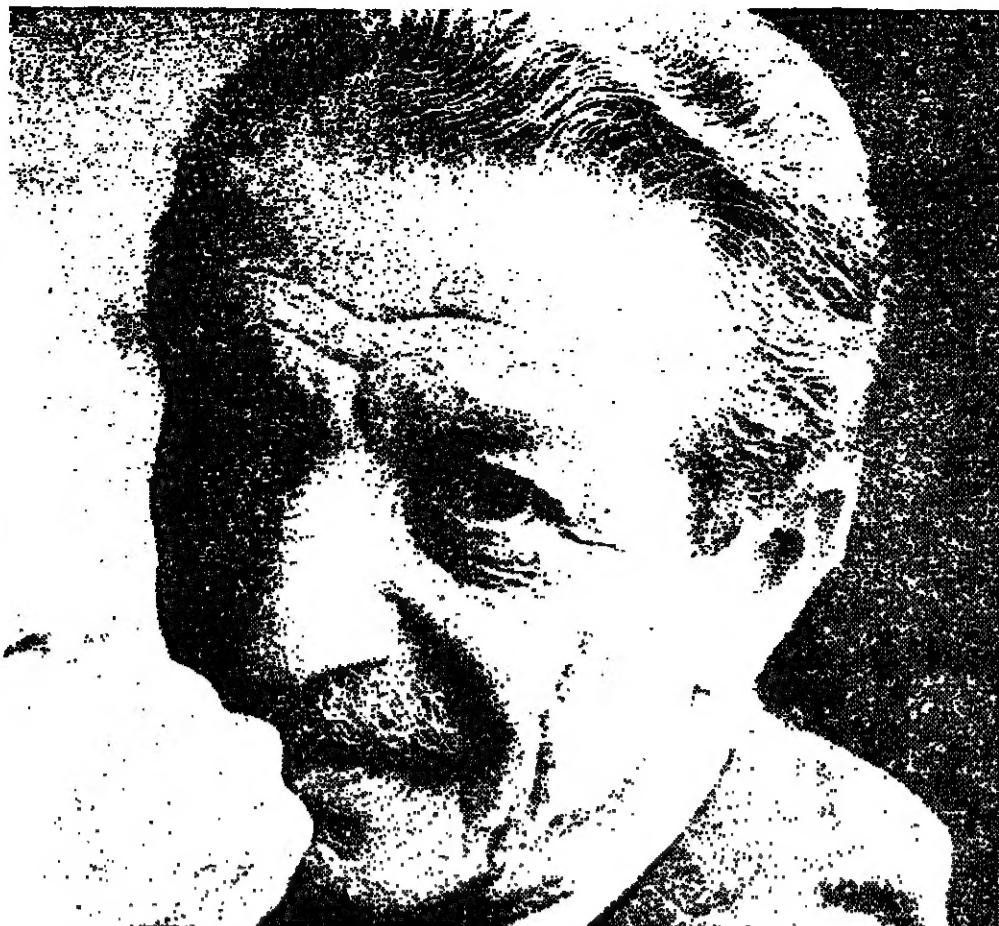
By Hazir Tehmourian

Dr Shapour Bakhtiar, the former Prime Minister of Iran who failed to achieve a transition from absolute monarchy to democracy during his brief tenure of power in 1979, has appealed to the West "to stop the Gulf war by ending the supply of military spare parts to the regime of Ayatollah Khomeini".

During a visit to London he said he understood how some Western companies had grown dependent on exporting goods to Iran. "I am not opposed to the sale of penicillin to Iran. But when it comes to spare parts for tanks and aircraft that enable Khomeini to send thousands of children to their deaths each month, it becomes unforgivable."

He also called for a boycott of Iran's oil and dismissed the suggestion that Ayatollah Khomeini could block the Strait of Hormuz to international shipping. "Iran has no right to close the Gulf, and countries such as the United States, Britain and France could immediately overcome any local military attempt to stop the flow of Arab oil to the outside world."

Dr Bakhtiar has also visited the United States and some Arab countries in the Gulf region (whose names he declined to mention) in the past six weeks. He said he had been encouraged by the further



Ayatollah's foe: Dr Bakhtiar, who left London yesterday. (Photograph: John Voos).

diplomatic isolation of Ayatollah Khomeini's regime in the region.

Dr Bakhtiar, who has lived in exile in Paris for the past five years, has recently formed an alliance with another liberal former Prime Minister, Dr Ali Amiri. They have agreed to

advocate the installation of the former Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi as a constitutional monarch if they achieve power again.

He was scathing in his attacks on his left-wing rivals, the National Resistance Council

around ex-President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, and the Mujahedin leader, Mr Massad Rajavi, both of whom also live in exile in Paris. "They are mere reactionaries who carry even less weight with the people of Iran than does their former idol, Khomeini."

Australians angry at Cheysson's claim

From Tony Dubouin Melbourne

Australia has asked France for an explanation of remarks by M Claude Cheysson, the Foreign Minister, that Australia was not worried about nuclear testing in the Pacific. His remarks were made in an interview with the French newspaper Liberation.

Mr Lionel Bowen, the Acting Foreign Minister, said he had asked the embassy in Paris to ask the French Foreign Ministry if the report was accurate. The Australian Foreign Affairs Department has also contacted the French ambassador.

Mr Bowen said Australia's opposition to and concern about nuclear testing in the Pacific, and to all nuclear testing, had been repeatedly made clear to the French Government at the highest level, including M Cheysson.

● TOKYO: The Foreign Ministry lodged protests yesterday with the embassies of the Soviet Union, the United States, France, China and Britain against nuclear tests, an official said (AP reports).

According to information obtained by the ministry, the Soviet Union conducted about 25 underground nuclear tests last year and one on February 19 this year.

The United States carried out 15 such tests last year, including one jointly with Britain, and two tests this year.

Young unemployed swell Grenada's police force

From Trevor Fishlock, St George's, Grenada

The pay is low, but young men and women are flocking to join the police in Grenada. As part of the reconstruction of a shattered community, the island badly needs to build a new force on the rubble of the old. In the meantime, the island is patrolled by 750 American and Caribbean troops.

The police force was humiliated and cut in size after the Bishop government took power five years ago. Its law-keeping powers were reduced and stations were closed as the ruling party's forces took over most policing.

By the time of the American invasion, police strength had been halved, to about 280, mostly junior men who had had only basic training. Most experienced senior officers had quit or been forced out.

The police had little training, no radio communications and they operated from ramshackle buildings. Their reputation had diminished during the rule of Sir Eric Gairy because they were associated with an unpopular administration. It sank even more during the rule of the revolutionary government.

Today the force has 350 men and women and the aim is to reach the full strength of about 600 by the end of next year. Men have been called from retirement to help to fill the gaps and recruits are being trained at a centre in Barbados built by Britain in 1957 and still partly funded by it.

A British police adviser, Mr Brian Graves, has been sent to St George's to help to reorganise the force and £300,000 of Britain's recent £750,000 grant to the island is being spent on the police. The force needs vehicles, radio and police stations, but the pressing requirement is training and the building of a body of senior officers. Few of the Grenadian police have had any advanced training.

Troops still patrol with rifles, but there is no longer a security problem and the police go unarmed. The Americans are anxious to withdraw their 300 men from the security force. But many islanders feel that their presence has at least a psychological value.

The Americans say they want to pull out and leave Caribbean forces to provide security.

They hope that, eventually, the police will take over the job of keeping order.

One reason why many young men and women are applying to join the police is that people sense that the image of the force and its former pride, are being restored. But another, and stronger reason, is that unemployment in Grenada is high.

Discontent about this is growing and there is concern that it poses a long-term threat to stability at a time when the structure of society is fragile. Grenada certainly has an urgent need for a good police force, but the need for help in creating employment is no less pressing.

Student in torture case 'informed'

From Michael Hornsby Johannesburg

A former student leader who is suing 10 security policemen for 113,000 rands (£64,570) in damages has been accused in the Pretoria Supreme Court of being a police informer who betrayed other political activists.

The charge was made by the advocate for the policemen during cross-examination of Mr Auret Van Heerden, a former president of the liberal and predominantly white National Union of South African Students. Mr Van Heerden denied that he had ever been an informer.

Mr Van Heerden, who was detained without trial between September, 1981 and July 1982, had earlier given detailed evidence of alleged torture at the hands of the security police, which included being hooded and given electric shocks. The case continues.

Madame's 160 girls on Riviera

Nico (AFP) - A court here sentenced Mme Mirelle Griffon to three years in jail and fined her Fr1m (£83,000) after she was found guilty of recruiting young women to work as prostitutes for Arab princes and businessmen on the French Riviera. Eighteen months of her sentence were suspended.

According to the prosecution, Mme Griffon, aged 41, hired 160 girls from all over Europe, all blonde and over 5ft 8in in height. Some worked only once, and were said to earn Fr10,000 for a night's duties and gifts worth up to Fr60,000 each.

Mme Griffon gained 10m francs from her activities, which she ran from luxurious hotels and villas on the Côte d'Azur, the court was told.

Women testifying earlier this week said they had worked for Mme Griffon of their own volition.

Pieces of ex-lover's body kept in freezer

Monchengladbach. West Germany (AP) - A 26-year-old woman has admitted strangling her lover, sawing up his corpse, cooking parts of it and storing the pieces in her home freezer for almost a year.

A spokesman of the Monchengladbach prosecutor's office said yesterday that Martina Zimmermann had confessed to killing Hans Josef Wirtz.

Frau Zimmermann mother of two children, was arrested with her ex-husband on Thursday, three days after a city gardener found 39 plastic freezer containers packed with human flesh.

Police said 10 video films with brutal cannibalism scenes were seized in a search of the Zimmermann home. The prosecutor's office spokesman said Frau Zimmer-



Frau Zimmermann. Planned to return.

mann told police that Herr Wirtz, aged 34, an unemployed barber and musician, had been interfering with her plans to return to her ex-husband, Herr Wilhelm Zimmermann.

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From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A statement by the Foreign Ministry said that South Africa would be represented on the commission by a Brigadier, three commandants and a senior foreign affairs official. It said that the meeting would also be attended by General Jannie

Diplomatic sources here were uncertain how seriously to take the claimed threat to the ceasefire, particularly as Mr Botha, according to his own account, had been aware of Swapo activity more than a

In talks with American officials in Washington this week, Mr Sam Nujoma, the Swapo leader, said that Swapo welcomed the disengagement of South African forces in Angola. He said Swapo would abide by the Lusaka agreement but would not lay down its arms until there was a ceasefire in Namibia itself.

From Douglas Tweedale
Buenos Aires

The most recent diplomatic exchange took place on February 16, when Argentina sent a formal reply to a series of British suggestions relating to the renewal of commercial and cultural exchanges.

From Richard Wigg, San Sebastian

As the coffin, draped in both the Spanish and Basque flags, was carried shoulder high by trade unionists through San

likely for the Socialists. An outright majority for the outgoing Basque Nationalist Party now looks less assured.

Space footage: A newly-released photograph of astronaut Bruce McCandless using a manipulator foot restraint to work outside the space shuttle Challenger on its recent flight

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

rather than on each other. But it was also clear that, following the results of the Iowa precinct caucuses last Monday, five of

The Rev Jesse Jackson is

and confident of victory in Tuesday's primary, spent most of the time contrasting himself with President Reagan.

Paris - Christina Onassis, thrice-divorced daughter and heiress of the late Greek shipping magnate, Aristotle Onassis, has become engaged to M. Thierry Roussel, owner of Parisian modelling agency. They are both 33.

Athens - Greece has formally renounced its territorial claim on northern Epirus, the mane the Greeks give to southern Albania where a large Greek community has lived for centuries. This conforms with the Helsinki Final Act which says existing frontiers in Europe are inviolable.

including kidnappings in the Genoa area between 1977 and 1981. They used the money to buy arms.

Stanisław Skrowaczewski

could turn the pages of a new score and immediately spot the inconsistencies. And she was always right. Artistically we were poles apart." She was at that

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

He described his talks with M Francis Gulmann, secretary general of the French Foreign

identity papers were the so-called "no-passport excursion cards", which are issued by travel agents for short visits of up to 60 hours in

By Henry Stanhope
Diplomatic Correspondent

The Prince, who leaves for Riyadh today, is commander of 75,000 armed men.

From Iver Dav
Los Angeles

In recent years the fees of physician have consistently

From Richard Hanson, Tokyo

Successive Justice Ministers have refused to approve the execution order. Hirosewa is

present died from the poisoned dose. While they collapsed, the culprit robbed the bank.

New York. (Reuter) - An armed security guard Roy Shultz, aged 54 was found strangled inside a cupboard at the West German consulate

Skrowaczewski dislikes conducting his own works. "The Clarinet Concerto was pro-

From Diana Geddes, Paris

He described his talks with M Francis Gulmann, secretary general of the French Foreign

identity papers were the so-called "no-passport excursion cards", which are issued by travel agents for short visits of up to 60 hours in

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

impose their annual nomenclature of the upper classes. Back is kept of infant Germans by the Society for the German language in Wiesbaden. And last year's tally shows that

According to Dr Wilfried Schicke of the University of

exhaustive lists from register
Times throughout West Coast

People say the old names are back in vogue, but there seem to be few young Friedrichs, Kon-

felt very happy as I was enjoying my freedom. But realistically I believed the conviction would be fruitful on both sides. The will and the

...and it's much easier to
speak by doing."

THE ARTS

Opera

Unmagical through thicket and thin

Faust

Bloomsbury Theatre

Goethe is said to have looked to Beethoven for a musical setting of his *Faust*; his opinion of Louis Spohr's opera of 1813 was not recorded, but surely even a man of his dubious musical taste would have been grateful not to be associated with it. For, instead of following the path newly trodden by the poet, Spohr and his librettist made their own way through the thicket of sources, and of course they got rather considerably less far.

This Faust is an ardent young Romantic hero in pursuit of love, tricked and fooled by a Mephistopheles who is merely a conjuror procuring homicides or translocations hither and yon in almost every scene (and there are quite a lot of those). What results is a cross between *Don Giovanni* and pantomime, with a score that no macabre, magical or melodramatic situation will ever sway from its mild pleasantness.

Even so, the piece is worth reviving when it is so well done by University College Opera, and when it arouses such puzzlement about nineteenth century taste, Victoria and

Albert themselves asked for the revision of 1851 used in this production, converting the original *Singspiel* into a fully sung opera, and in its first form its adumbration of what Wagner's hands became the leitmotif, even if Spohr's occasional little ideas are a very long way from achieving that kind of character and range. Weber and Berlioz were surely much more useful examples to Wagner.

At least the score has a thoroughly prepared and recently played performance under Christopher Fifield. Robert Carver's production sets the opera at the time of its composition, which causes some problems: Empire ladies were not commonly saved from fates worse than death by posers of armed knights, nor Regency beaux slaughtered by sorcery. But the new period does give Robert Dean an appropriately Byronic persona for a strong interpretation of the title role. Roger Bryson is an eminently plausible Mephistopheles, stern and dark of voice, the black Leporello of the opera, and the ladies, of nobility and sentiment, are very effectively portrayed by Elizabeth Ritchie and Louise Winter respectively.

Paul Griffiths

Theatre

Lost innocence

Brighton Rock

Belgrade, Coventry

Graham Greene wrote that *Brighton Rock* was begun as a detective story and "continued, I am sometimes tempted to think, as an error of judgement." Its curious, distinctive amalgam of thriller and philosophical novel did not deter Frank Harvey from adapting it for the London stage within five years of its publication.

As revised by Stephen Wyatt for Simon Dunmore's production, the Harvey version works better than you might expect, making great play with cross-cut episodes (some of only a few lines) marked by quick lighting changes, though some long static scenes remain.

Adrian Rees's set fits a balconied stretch of promenade, a cavernous Ghost Train, the table at Snow's and Pinkie's bedroom-headquarters on the stage while still managing to leave space for the actors. In the opening sequences there almost seems room for the hunted Fred Hale (David Goodland) to escape, but the protection gang has numerous entrances to appear from and can close in fast.

The design's steel-grey elegance, however, departs radically from the seediness so painstakingly evoked in the novel, and it irons out contrast. Meanwhile the same thing has happened with the casting.

Everyone is roughly the same age and, despite Greene's emphasis on Rose's mousiness and the fat or spotty plainness of the sunbathing girls, there is not an unattractive bit of "polony" in sight.

Kevin McMinagle's Pinkie is no tender lad of 17 with experience-hardened eyes, but a Kray lookalike of 25, or so, with very few stirrings of terror or incipient compassion.

In the interview with Col-leoni (for which Richard Moore adopts a heavy Jewish accent and an outfit like a wedding usher), he is smart and largely undaunted by his adversary or surroundings, the latter comprising two cushions added to what has just been an eating-house banquet. Without some suggestion of innocence (a crucial theme in the book) a whole dimension is lost; his death is simply the baddie's come-uppance.

Fortunately the women have a firm grip on the essentials, and Andrea Wray's trusting ingenueness as Rose is so convincing that you stop minding about her Singer Sargent profile. Likewise, Davila David may not be nearly ample or mature enough for Ida (actually created in 1943 by Hermione Baddeley). But as an implacable avenging angel cheerfully running on a fuel of Guinness, she knows what she wants and gets it.

Anthony Masters



Kevin McMinagle and Andrea Wray as Pinkie and Rose

Concert

Of monsters and men

London Sinfonietta/Knussen
Bloomsbury

I know music is pretty diverse these days, but I doubt you could find a more curious couple than the two main works in the Arts Council's present touring programme. In the blue corner we have *In Sleep In Thunder*, in double abstraction presenting us with Elliott Carter's response to Robert Lowell's response to the human condition, and in the red, blood-red and dripping, H. K. Gruber's *Frankenstein!*, which knows nothing about Man but a good deal about monsters, vampires, bats and corpses.

One might have feared the two would cancel each other out, but the contrasts invigorated both, as did excellently acute performances by the London Sinfonietta under Oliver Knussen, with Martyn Hill again taking up the challenge of Carter and Gruber himself, doing his inimitable impression of a werewolf, as children's entertainer and cabaret artist.

If, nevertheless, the Carter tended rather to hang fire, that work is possibly because it is a less wonderful work than it ought to be. Coming at the end of a triptych of late vocal compositions, it lacks the excitement its predecessors had in venturing on something new:

here Carter knows only too well how to work the medium of voice plus mixed instrumental ensemble.

The words are a stumbling block too. In making Lowell's sort-of sonnets into sort-of songs, Carter inevitably slows them to a pace too ponderous for the wit to remain or the philosophising to appear other than pompous. Mr Hill did well to draw out what is fresh, vital and purely musical in Carter's phrases instead of seeking to interpret the texts, but still the work only really caught light when the instruments were in control.

Gruber's piece is differently balanced, indeed wholly and gloriously unbalanced, but here, too, one listened through the macabre nursery rhymes to the marvellous strangeness of their orchestral landscape. This is, of course, utterly shoddy, corrupt, banal and idiotic music, but done with such an exact feeling for those qualities that it achieves its own elegance. And Gruber's performance, through often repeated, is still as naive and nasty as ever it was.

There are, also two instrumental items, well paired with the principal works. Robin Holloway's *Aria* precedes Carter as a seriously argued song without words, and Harrison Birtwhistle offers a clockwork of musical machines before the toys of Gruber.

Paul Griffiths

Television

Fall into bad hands

As if to remind us, amidst the discussion about its alleged sins, that it still nourishes virtue, the BBC last night launched the first of a series of 20 plays by writers new to television with *Just Another Little Blues Song*, by John Harvey.

Mr Harvey, who is a writer of pulp fiction, Westerns and thrillers, set his story in Soho, presumably before it was cleaned up. This Soho would make Sir Kenneth Newman reach for his telephone at once.

Frank is an over-the-hill saxophonist, playing for his supper and the wherewithal to pursue what he considers to be racing certainties, in a seedy little club. The well-known perversity of horses when it comes to running to form has put him in debt to a gang, and the nub of the play was his struggle - not terribly desperate - to raise the money to pay them off.

He raises it at last by persuading a pimp who owes him a favour to provide him with a certainty (can that really be done?), but his soft heart impels him to give it to the club owner who is also being threatened.

It was plain from the start that Frank would come to a sticky end, and sure enough we last saw him about to have his hands broken. It was a dated little story but very well acted, principally by Adam Faith as the fearless Frank, Gwen Taylor as his ex-wife, and Alun Lewis as one of the heavies.

This BBC2 production, by Terry Coles, with direction by John Bruce, gave Mr Harvey every assistance and the music, by Duncan Lamont, was very good although his saxophone playing in Frank's stead rather offset the key notion that Frank was over the hill.

Dennis Hackett

Radio

Female voices full of western promise

I am rather sympathetic to the lecture as form of communication - from which you may correctly deduce that I spent many hours of my youth in an ancient, and encrusted seat of learning on the receiving end of many of them. I do believe that I enjoyed and was the wiser for a well-made lecture even then. However that may be, these days I rather look forward to the annual Reith ritual - three hours of solo talk in which a man (and once in 1961 a woman) can state a case uninterrupted by a single carping question or another whingeing point of view. And last week the same went for The Hilbert Lecture (Radio 4, February 21; producer, Sue Davies).

This is the first time in its 100 year history that this lecture has been broadcast. Generally, I understand, it has been liberal Christian in tone and previous lecturers have included such figures as Albert Schweitzer and Sir Alister Hardy. The 1984 occasion was notable, then, not only for being the first to be heard by several hundred thousand people at the same time, but also because it was delivered by a woman, Dr Ursula King, Lecturer in Theology and Religious Studies at Leeds University. And you might say that this latter fact alone offered a sufficient justification for the subject she had chosen to explore. *Voices of Protest: Voices of Promise - Exploring Spirituality for a New Age* developed the argument that women, now emerging from centuries of relegation to lesser roles, have unique qualities of sensitivity and vision from which it might be possible "to create a truly life-enhancing and world-transforming spirituality".

In some respects I found myself as sympathetic to Dr King's argument as to her lecture format. It has often seemed to me - in as far as one can generalize on such a matter - that women are in certain respects more sensitive, more common-sensible, more practical, less childishly vainglorious than men. But is the anger at the "injustice of sexism" which Dr King sees as a fuel which will conduct them to their vision any different from the anger of any other kind of group that feels itself hard done by? Is anger a starting point from which anyone can truly hope to create a new spirituality? And besides, is spirituality some-

thing that either women or men can in any sense create?

I also found myself asking whether women in general, or even feminist women in particular, can possibly be said to have any better-integrated "vision of wholeness" than the men, or to deny more comprehensively "the validity of an exclusive either/or". All in all, I came away from Dr King's address more stimulated, but feeling that while it would certainly be to our advantage if many attitudes and behaviour patterns between men and women could be transformed, many of them are of a hidden kind which the somewhat exhortatory tone that Dr King increasingly adopted will do little to shift. I have the suspicion that we shall still be left with the problem that affects both sexes equally: that we are human.

Perhaps it was this liking for the single, uninterrupted voice that also made me prefer that first series of *Barnes People*, monologues each spoken by a distinguished performer - to Peter Barnes' second set now running on Radio 3 under the direction of Ian Cottrell. These are dialogues and in coming nearer to being plays, they have lost those satisfactory inward and reflective qualities of the solo.

Both local station and the BBC have been giving some attention to the half-century of Elgar's death. Capital Radio in cooperation with Worcester's Radio Wyvern last Sunday put out Robin Blake's *Enigma* in which the composer in the last summer of his life surveys some of his landmarks. This was another single voice, but one that did on this occasion win me over. I think that in his writing Mr Blake had not really managed to capture the reminiscent feel of a man alone with his memories, and this was aggravated by John Woodvine's Elgar. Was he miscast? Or misdirected? At all event he sounded nothing like an old man remembering. For this, superbly done, it was necessary to turn to Timothy West, repeating his performance of the dying composer, in a second hearing of Douglas Slater's *The Last Recording* (Radio 4, February 23; director Ian Cottrell), a stylish play in which Mr West was much assisted by the well-judged writing of his monologues.

David Wade

Lying on the beach, covered in oil, soaking up the sun. It's no holiday.



When a seabird lands on oil polluted waters, it becomes a living corpse.

Thick, sticky oil immediately covers the bird's body, seeping into the wings and clogging the feathers together.

The bird will lie on the surface of the oil struggling to remove oil from its plumage. In doing so, the bird will only ingest more oil. Eventually it may be washed ashore, and if it is not already dead, it will die sooner or later.

Every so often, after a major oil tanker disaster like the Torrey Canyon for example, the tragedy of the thousands of seabirds killed as a result of oil pollution is brought sharply into public focus. Such an accident is, after all, an important news story.

And for a while, the concern and the interest of the public in the plight of the disaster victims is high.

But a tanker disaster is an isolated incident. The real tragedy is that ships are dumping fuel oil and crude oil off the shores of Britain all the year round.

It is not accidental, and it is highly

illegal. But it is hardly a story to warrant news coverage, and most people are unaware that it happens at all.

Yet this cold-blooded practice means that Britain's seabirds are constantly exposed to danger, constantly threatened with the most grisly form of death.

So what can you do about it?

The most positive step you can take is to lend your support to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, either by becoming a member or by sending us a donation - however large or small - to help us continue our fight against oil pollution.

We have our very own volunteers regularly monitoring the coastline and keeping a vigilant eye on the shore for beached birds. They report all signs of oil on the sea so that the authorities can be called to investigate.

We are actively pressing for stricter Government controls on oil dumping. We are demanding increased off-shore surveillance and realistic penalties for resulting prosecutions.

We are doing all we can to help Britain's birds.

You can help us by filling in the coupon below and sending it as soon as possible to The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Freepost, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds. SG19 2DL.

I would like to give my support to the RSPB.

Please send me as a member of the RSPB for the annual subscription of £3 for which I will receive a free quarterly magazine and be entitled to free entrance to the RSPB's nature reserves. ☐

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Enclose Cheque/BQ (payable to RSPB) for £ _____

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The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Freepost, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds. SG19 2DL.

T104

SPORTING DIARY

Bullyettes

A man who has long umpired women's hockey is giving it up because he cannot stand the violence. Tony McGarva made his decision after a recent match in which a player pushed him in the chest with her stick after she had been ordered off. "It was a very rough game," McGarva said. "Players were continually arguing and the language would have made a dock worker blush. I am too old to take this kind of aggro." The North Humberdale Ladies (1) Hockey League called for a full report on the game.

Botham up

Ian Botham official testimonial season T-shirts are already on sale. They come in three different designs, all with a picture of our hero in mid-swing and a slogan that captures nicely the man's shy, retiring nature: "Beefy Botham: The Great All Rounder." Only £3.95. It can just picture them in the Long Room at Lord's in the summer.

● The England cricketers are so determined not to drink the water in Faisalabad on their imminent tour of Pakistan that they are taking their own. The Test and County Cricket Board is flying out eight days' supply, and could send a doctor and basic ration as well.

On the spot

Stockport County proved themselves the League's worst penalty takers in their Associate Members' Cup match with Crewe Alexandra on Wednesday. With the score 2-2 after extra time, the match was decided on penalties. Stockport not only missed all three of theirs, but each of Crewe's right at almost exactly the same spot, two of them right out of the ground. Crewe scored with all three.

Off target

Bognor Regis Town of the Isthmian League were planning to celebrate their centenary in 1995. Now they discover the club was actually founded in 1883, but it took 12 years to get round to joining a league. Club officials are frantically trying to organize a celebration in what remains of their centenary season, and hope to fix a friendly with a League club.

● Quote of the week: "It seems a lot to give the Wimbledon champion £60,000 or £70,000, but it is all relative to income." - Wimbledon's new chairman, Buzzer Haddingham.

Chap's cap

Steve "Chap" Redfern is the fastest prop in the business, admittedly not all that fast by the standards of ordinary men. He was England's replacement prop at Twickenham for the match against Ireland last Saturday, and he told his colleagues on the bench that he had no chance of playing, as replacement props seldom get the call. When Colin White was injured, his colleagues turned to remind him of his prophecy, only to find that Redfern was already on the pitch and championing at the bit. He got the nickname "Chap", apparently a normal form of address in Leicestershire, after he was introduced to a state governor on a tour of Australia. "How are you doing, chap?" Redfern asked him. He has a second nickname: "Granite". No one will tell me why.

● It grieves me to report that the match between Tasmania and New South Wales in the Tasmanian town of Devonport was abandoned on the last day. Gale-force winds snapped the sightcreens in two.

Olga's switch

Olga Korbut, the Tolkienesque star of the Munich Olympics, will soon be competing again, though this time the slick and supple movements will not be performed by her but by her three-year-old black stallion, Taken Kurnon. Olga, now 28, married to a pop star and with a four-year-old son, is into dressage. Viktor Ugrumov, Byelorussia's senior dressage coach, says she is "ambitious, persistent, very well coordinated and painstaking". Of course.

Any advance?

Fascinating fact: I learn that 147 is not the maximum possible break in snooker after all. If your opponent leaves you a foul snooker, you can pocket any colour, which counts as a red, and then before a ball has been potted, you can take a colour for one point, followed by the black, then all 15 reds, with 15 blacks, and last the colours. Total: 155. Has anyone ever done it?

Simon Barnes

BARRY FANTONI



"Honestly, monsieur, this £160 is a gift, not a bribe to leave your union."

Noises off, murmurs on

Bryan Appleyard meets Samuel Beckett, in London to fine tune a new production of 'Waiting for Godot'

Estragon: All the dead voices. Vladimir: They make a noise like wings. Estragon: Like leaves. Vladimir: Like sand. Estragon: Like leaves. (Silence)

"Like leaves." Samuel Beckett demonstrates how to speak the line - with a suggestion of argumentative insistence. He almost whispers in a soft, surprisingly light Irish accent. The actor tries again. "Like leaves." Beckett nods his approval. The atmosphere in the theatre is one of intensity with no prospect of relief.

Beckett is at the Riverside Studios in Hammersmith rehearsing his most famous play, *Waiting for Godot*, which baffled audiences 30 years ago and is now an A level set text. His extraordinary output of novels and plays have made him, arguably, the most internationally established and revered figure in modern literature. Even this rehearsal is being observed by two American academics who are working on a three-volume book entitled *Beckett at Work* and by Professor Jim Knowlson, founder of Reading University's Beckett Archive which, since 1970, has been collecting every fragment of his work. Beckett's very presence imposes a powerful aura of concentration which engulfs the entire auditorium.

The figure that is the focus of all attention is skeletal thin. He wears brown pinstriped, seemingly expensive grey flannel trousers, a shapeless beige pullover with leather patches on the elbows and a sheepskin coat, again apparently expensive. His lined, haunted, aquiline face is familiar from a thousand photographs but the light voice, the depth of the Irish accent and his shy warmth come as a series of mild shocks.

The story behind his two-week trip to London comes as an even greater shock. He is 78 in April, and increasingly reluctant to leave his two French homes - but his visit to London represents the climax of his generous determination to complete a strange circle of events which began in 1954 when a 21-year-old white boy from Chicago was sentenced to death for armed bank robbery in California.

Rick Cluchey came from a standard rough background and the crime was common. But the robbery made the mistake of taking one of the bank's security guards. This left them open to a kidnapping charge and a possible death penalty.

The death sentence was not carried out, but Cluchey served 12 years in San Quentin prison. During that time he was bitten by the theatre bug. He formed a group in the prison and put on three Beckett



Beckett and 'Godot' actors: ex-death row prisoner Rick Cluchey and godson Louis Beckett Cluchey

plays: *Waiting for Godot*, *Endgame* and *Krapp's Last Tape*. In 1966 he left prison but kept the group going. It became the San Quentin Drama Workshop, a loose association of about 12 professional actors held together by Cluchey in Chicago. It is the only work Cluchey has done since he left San Quentin and clearly the only work he feels is worth doing. Apart from plays by Cluchey himself, the group performs only Beckett, an extraordinary way to support wife and children.

"I've averaged about \$8,000 a year since I left San Quentin. That's around what we in America call the poverty line," he comments.

His son, who plays a Boy in this production, is ten. His name is Louis Beckett Cluchey. He was born in Edinburgh and taken to Paris at the age of four months to meet the man who had agreed to be his godfather. The childless Beckett had bought him a coat which the Cluchey's couldn't bring themselves to explain was far too big. The Cluchey's five-year-old daughter is named Suzanne after Beckett's wife.

In September Cluchey's devotion will pay off with more permanent work. He is to begin lecturing on Samuel Beckett and the Universal Chorus at De Paul University, Chicago. But for that course he has found he has had to break one of the rules his master laid down. Beckett had told him he must never read Deirdre Bair's biography. Beckett had not read it himself and declined to cooperate with its writing.

But until now the history of the San Quentin group has been incomplete. Its repertoire contained two of the original plays performed in the prison fully endorsed - i.e. directed - by Beckett. This meeting at Riverside finally completes the

circle. All three of the prison productions will have been transmuted into fully professional shows blessed with Beckett's imprimatur. For two weeks Beckett is now providing the final fine tuning. The production will be staged twice for schoolchildren at Riverside before leaving for the Adelaide Festival in Australia.

But it is clearly an effort. Beckett arrives at the theatre from the West End hotel by Underground and sits in the bar drinking black coffee and at the mercy of somebody's decision to get on with rehearsals.

"You're not interviewing me are you?" he asks and fixes me with a pale, unwavering stare through his thick glasses. "I don't give interviews." This is the determined privacy against which Bair had to struggle.

But once the distinction between interview and chat is established his conversation becomes surprisingly frank. He is genuinely unhappy to be talking about himself, preferring to direct attention to the actors and director. He never makes the usual vain assumptions of the famous that his interlocutor knows all about his career. The most familiar biographical elements emerge as if he had lived in complete anonymity for the past 77 years.

His age is beginning to tell. His posture, always described as "athletic" or "ramrod straight", has acquired a stoop around shoulder level and he betrays a slight impatience with his lapses of memory. Friends say he has been deeply distressed by the deaths of Patrick Magee, the actor for whom Beckett wrote *Krapp's Last Tape*, having only heard his voice on the radio, and of Roger Blin, the French

director who has been one of the most loyal champions of his work.

In rehearsal Beckett stands by the stage, his unwavering gaze fixed on the action. Occasionally he murmurs directions waving his hands like a conductor to catch the rhythms of the language. Every so often he walks up to the actors, whispers in a voice inaudible to the rest of us, and demonstrates how to move, walking slowly with a curious stiff gait.

Everything he does reinforces the symmetry of the play, tightens it, makes points more explicit, and action more precise. No variation from his instructions goes unnoticed. Nobody kids themselves that perfection is possible.

At lunch the obligatory Beckett fanatic pops up. Beckett is sitting awkwardly on a bar stool, sipping half a pint of Guinness largely unnoticed among the crowds. A man elbows his way into the conversation.

"Excuse me, Mr Beckett, you don't mind do you? I've been a fan of yours all my life. I've been reading your stuff for 40 years."

"You must be very tired," responds Beckett and breaks out into a startling gale of laughter.

For the duration of lunch Beckett indulges the fanatic, clearly happy to be engaged in slightly mindless banter. But the rest of the time the overwhelming impression is of a winter of painful and shocking sensitivity. The deaths among his few loyal friends have evidently cut him deeply. The austere and profoundly moving course of his work has always suggested an approaching cul-de-sac but invariably in the past he seems to have found new ways ahead. Whether he can do so again remains to be seen.

Michael Tracey on a dispute over the report that shocked the nation

Four out of ten children have seen video nasties, questionnaire reveals

Six-year-old addicts of the video nasties

How the national press splashed Dr Hill's claims: but how scientifically accurate are they?

Casting cold water on the ketchup

On November 24 last year the press reported, under bold headlines, that many children barely of school-going age regularly watched violence, sex and horror on their television screens. The stories were based on a press conference to announce the report of the Parliamentary Video Inquiry. The report, entitled *Video Violence and Children: Children's Viewing Patterns in England and Wales*, had been completed by Dr Clifford Hill, director of the inquiry.

The *Daily Star* said: "Appalled researchers discovered that video nasties have replaced party games and conjures as entertainment at children's birthday parties; teenagers are left with the family video recorder for 'company' by parents who do without a baby sitter; parents seem unaware of the true nature of many of the films; children pressure their classmates or younger brothers and sisters to watch nasties and poke fun at the 'scares'-cats' who refuse."

"The report - sponsored by MPs, peers and leading churchmen - is based on questionnaires sent to 206 schools in England and Wales and interviews with more than 6,000 children - their parents and teachers."

The problem is that almost every statement contained in the group's report and uttered at the press conference is denied by the other members of the research team who compiled the data, the members of Oxford Polytechnic's television research unit.

The story begins on June 27 last year. A meeting was convened at the House of Lords, with Lord Nugent in the chair. Present were six Lords, three MPs and representatives of various churches. Also there were Dr Hill, a sociologist, who said he had become concerned by evidence of the damaging effects of video nasties on children, and Mr Brian Brown, a Methodist minister and head of Oxford Polytechnic's newly formed television research unit.

After a meeting in July it was agreed to launch a research project with Hill as director and Brown as associate director, with funds provided by the "sponsoring group" - essentially those who attend the original meeting - to the Oxford

top of the poll for Private Members bills and had decided to introduce legislation to ban video nasties. What had been conceived as a study possibly lasting two years was suddenly under pressure to produce early results.

A questionnaire was prepared and distributed to 6,000 schoolchildren, to be completed by them under the supervision of their teachers. The teachers were asked to lead a discussion, get the children to describe their reactions to certain video films, and record the main points. These were then to be returned to the research team for analysis. All the correspondence was in the name of the Oxford Unit and signed either by Brown or Hill.

The large part of the published report, and most of the statements in the press, derive not from the quantifiable data provided by the children filling in the questionnaire but from these notes of impressions made by teachers. This is the main point of contention: it is very difficult to see what can be claimed for such information, which of its nature can have no real social scientific significance.

A note prepared by the television research unit for Oxford Polytechnic's management committee states categorically: "Our main worry was that we knew that the report contained assertions and exaggerated claims allegedly supported by factual evidence. We know no grounds to support this statement. The report too was skewed and distorted and appeared to have been completed without any reference to the research data which we were still assembling. We know as a matter of fact that we did not collect much of the evidence cited..."

Dr Hill told me that many of the "teachers' reports" were passed directly on to him unopened by the research unit. What remains contentious is the social scientific validity of such reports, and the wisdom of placing such information alongside data gathered from a questionnaire

survey. The research unit quotes many instances where it believes that statements made in the report have no support in statistical evidence. Examples include: "The percentage of all children (including those from non-television families) whose families..." There was no data on TV ownership in the questionnaire. "Working class children, especially those from large families, appear most at risk in watching the nasties." The survey did not ask any questions about family size, and the socio-economic data was contained not in the children's questionnaire but in one issued to parents which had not been analysed when that conclusion was arrived at and the report published.

The popular press delighted in the comments in the report of nine-year-old Warren: "I like all the blood coming out," and Stevie, also nine: "I like the bit in Driller Killer where he puts a man up on sticks and... then he gets his drill and puts it through his stomach and he screams for ages." These quotes come from a "Covenanter" teacher with a class of primary school children in Coventry who were involved in the survey.

Dr Hill told me it had been assumed the school was in Coventry because the envelope carried a Coventry postmark.

The major source of the rift between Dr Hill and the television research unit was caused by what he regarded as the haste with which the report was written.

On November 9, Dr Hill delivered by hand to Mr Brown's office a yellow folder containing a draft report. For reasons which remain unclear, the members of the unit did not notice this until November 14, also discovering a note to the effect that their comments had to be with Dr Hill by 5pm that day because of the timetable of the Bright legislation.

No data at all had been available from computer printout until November 8, the day before the draft report was delivered.

Dr Hill commented on this: "I did not begin to write the statistical section of this report until I saw the trends already clear. The fact that that first draft went without statistics does not mean to say that I didn't have it. I had got the tables all drawn out ready to put the statistics in but of course they were changing with each printout."

In short, the body of the report was written before any statistical evidence was available, and most of the statements it contains are based on the teachers' reports, which can have no statistical significance.

The final issue which has been raised involved the removal of all the data and related correspondence from the television research unit by Dr Hill on November 25. Mr Brown was not present, his assistants protested at the removal but were told that permission had been given by a Polytechnic official. Dr Hill is adamant that a named official agreed to the removal.

The difficulty however is not a legal one, but a question of academic ethics and conduct. All the data and correspondence with schools, local education authorities and teachers had been on Oxford Polytechnic headed notepaper, some of which was signed by Dr Hill. Before November 23 the recipients could not have known that information was being collected for the Parliamentary Video Group, even though Dr Hill was undoubtedly the research director of the overall project.

One is left with many questions that need to be answered. Why was no contract issued, and why did Oxford Polytechnic agree to become involved in a project without clarifying all the legal and financial issues? Why did the report not make a clearer distinction between the statistical evidence and the more impressionistic information used? Was it wise to create an extraordinarily tight timetable for the work? (The questionnaires were only sent out on October 12, and a draft report was available by November 9). Was it proper to remove the questionnaires and related materials from the research unit?

And, finally, is it a sufficiently accurate piece of research to frame the debate about the important issue of children and video nasties?

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Woodrow Wyatt

My hot tip for Fleet Street

The silly season for the press used to be late July and August. It is now all the year round, at least for the tabloids including those with pretensions to being serious. On Tuesday, the whole of the front page of the *Daily Express*, most of page 2, the whole of page 3, and a large chunk of page 9 were occupied by "Andrew's new girl". The story made the front page of the *Daily Mail*, too, but not so noisily as they had borrowed it from the *Express*. It was predictably on the front page of *The Sun*. The *Daily Mirror* must have been asleep. I could find nothing about "Andrew's new girl" in it. However, on Wednesday, the *Mirror* and the *Mail* were on the trail, reporters and photographers blaring, as were the other tabloids and so on into Thursday.

What had the "new girl" done to merit all this attention? She and her parents had given a birthday party for Prince Andrew and a few other friends for which the lady in question was reported to have cooked the food. The *Express* recorded that at 1.30 am the Prince left with the rest of the guests who were laughing and joking and that he gave the young lady a goodnight kiss.

It sounds pretty ordinary. Hardly the stuff for acres of newspaper when Lebanon is on fire, the Iraq-Iran war may be about to dislocate the West's oil supplies and there is even Mr Wedgwood Benn and his by-election to write about. But Miss Koo Stark having run her boring day, Prince Andrew's "new girl" can now expect massive publicity and unrestrained harassment. There is no longer a close season for the silly season save among those few newspapers who do not think their readers need a keyhole account of any friendships Prince Andrew may happen to make. Any notion that he is entitled to privacy off duty has vanished.

Mark Thatcher, as the son of a famous mother, gets the same treatment. Yes, the exan lady who went to church with him last Sunday is attractive. But what they may think about each other would once have been thought their private business. Can the mass circulation newspapers really be right in believing that their readers want to have endlessly exposed to them the details of the commonplace doings of the children of those in high places? The odd mention, perhaps, but hardly the floods of titillating and pictures.

There may be more readers than the tabloids suppose like the father of Prince Andrew's "new girl" who sensibly observed: "You don't believe everything you read in the papers, do you?"

In Mrs Thatcher's case, her son is being used as a vehicle for unpleasant digs at her of the "willing to wound but afraid to strike" kind. This distasteful course was started by *The Observer*, which thought it had

got hold of a scandal over Cementation's Oman contract which it could project with a show of high-mindedness as a matter of genuine public concern. It was reminiscent of the "I made my excuses and left" technique of fearless reporters exposing vice but running out of courage at the moment of truth.

Previously, the charge has been that he was too much of a playboy. Now the charge in *The Observer*, infected by the permanent silly season, is that he has been doing something useful and that Mrs Thatcher ought to be ashamed of him; and of herself for allowing him to be with her for part of the time on her travels; something which was known to the press at the time and then excited no comment.

I agree with Lord Aberconway's letter in *The Times* on Tuesday. "Why should Mrs Thatcher, who is visiting a foreign country on Britain's behalf, refrain from supporting the efforts of the only British company seeking a contract, just because a member of her family is employed by that company and he is one of a team seeking to win that contract?"

Lord Aberconway, president of John Brown, seems relieved that he is not related to Mrs Thatcher. That would have brought charges of nepotism when she stood out against President Reagan trying to stop his company fulfilling its contract to supply gas turbines for the Russian pipeline. I hope Mrs Thatcher will tell future malicious enquirers trying to make scandal out of her doing her national duty in Oman to buzz off.

Newspapers should be careful how shoddy they get. ITN and BBC News have vast popular audiences of the children of the famous when they are doing things which most reasonable people would regard as their private affairs, and without trying to make a scandal where there are none. Fleet Street mass circulations have been going down perhaps because they are abandoning real news to the wireless and television.

Though it must be conceded that the best printed national newspaper, the *Morning Star*, does not leap in circulation by being earnest. Maybe it should publicize more its racing tipster, Cayton, who has the genuine popular touch. When was at Oxford I had standing orders for bookmakers for a bet on every Cayton nap selection.

I won so much that the bookmaker closed my account. Between last November 7 and February 23, Cayton headed the national newspapers' nap selections listed in the *Sporting Life* with a profit of £10.6 to a £1 level stake. The worthy *Guardian's* nap tipster was at the bottom with a loss of £29.34. Now that's real news.

George Walden

Cultivation should begin at home

T.S. Eliot, the Treasury and the now defunct Think Tank have one thing in common: distrust of cultural diplomacy in general, and of the British Council in particular. Eliot cautiously approved of the council's post-war role of encouraging intellectual contacts, but was wary of state activity in culture in the long term. The Treasury, whose preoccupations are more pressing, seems to want to trim the council to bits. The Central Policy Review Staff wanted to abolish it outright.

Ministers will now be looking at the council's future pattern of spending yet again; its present level holds good only to April 1. In the process, all the old cultural about the council's function and purpose will presumably resurface. Few bodies can have been reviewed and reassessed so much in so few years. As we reenter the cycle, it is a good moment to ask what it is all for - not just the council, but the reviews as well.

In six years there were three major inquiries. The CPRS had the first shot in 1977. This made the most waves, but it was not the least. Ironically, Mrs Thatcher was more radical. When she took office in 1979 there was an immediate interdepartmental review, in which she shared 18 per cent off the council's core budget over four years. Only Sir Dick Troughton's personal brand of cultural diplomacy, with the Prime Minister's support, spared the council deeper mauling. In yet a third overhaul, Lord Seabrook led a thorough management review in 1981, resulting in further efficiency measures.

The Treasury loves invisibles, but not intangibles. Hard and fast definitions of the council's work and raison d'être are not easy. One way to approach cultural diplomacy is to decide what it is not. It is definitely not a political arm of government, and has been remarkably successful (like the External Services of the BBC) in keeping out of controversy over the years, given the potential political overtones of some of its work.

It is not an export promotion agency either. The British Council has rightly been encouraged to sharpen its awareness of the commercial angles of its work. Its value to the book trade is obvious, and it now makes a good deal of money teaching English abroad. But the notion that the council should be seen primarily as a commercial enterprise is both unrealistic and dangerous because it encourages the myth that promotion can substitute for production. You can teach a foreigner English and sensitize him to things British, but he will still buy

American or German if it is cheaper and better.

Finally, for those whose hackles rise at the word, the council has less to do with culture, narrowly defined, than people think. Only 12 per cent of its core budget goes on concerts, exhibitions, films and the like. What it does do is a good deal of worthy, if rather humdrum work. It teaches English to a lot of foreigners, against payment in richer countries, free in poorer places. It teaches teachers as well and handles a vast number (about 30,000) of student and academic exchanges.

What sort of image should we be projecting, and where should we concentrate our effort in the Third World, or in our new political base in Europe? There is scope for endless argument about the right balance, some of it fruitful, some less so.

A lot of this debate can be debilitating. There comes a point when you have to ask yourself: whether you are going to stay in the cultural diplomacy business at all. If we are, we should install sound management, limit the budget, do what we can afford, and let the council get on with it. We have done the first two, but not the last.

The extraordinary diversion of ministerial effort which can go into fiddling with the image of Britain, rather than dealing with the substance, is something that has to be seen to be believed. I am as keen on financial rigour in the council as I am on substance, and believe that most of the savings made were necessary. But I would brandish my knife most menacingly and persistently over budgets that are getting bigger than over small ones that are growing smaller.

There is an even more fundamental reason for some sense of proportion. Judith Hart, the former Labour Minister for Overseas Development, inadvertently highlighted it when she once lamented the financial restrictions on the encouragement of the study of Shakespeare in Guinea-Bissau. Her words were warm and worthy sentiments. But governments (and especially that of Dame Judith) could have spent their time more profitably ensuring that someone is still reading Shakespeare in Britain in 10 years' time, or even perhaps by rereading Eliot's own sombre prognosis of decline in cultural and educational standards.

That way there will still be something for the British Council to export. Literacy is good for business, too. Culture, in fact, is rather like cars: exports do best when the domestic market prospers.

The *Guardian's* Conservative MP for Buckingham.

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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE MARRIAGE BOND

The Church of England's search for a satisfactory response to the phenomenon of widespread divorce in our society has reached the kind of critical point which demands great caution. How the church handles those whose marriages have been dissolved and who ask for a religious service the second time round stands as a public symbol of Christian teaching on marriage, and so there is much more to the issue than meeting the religious needs of the relatively few individuals for whom a second marriage in church may be of spiritual benefit. The church, under the leadership of the General Synod, has hitherto been heading towards a solution which would let those needs prevail over the conflicting priority: to uphold through thick and thin the doctrine that marriage is for life. But the particular procedures proposed by the synod for identifying worthy cases have been overwhelmingly rejected by the church at large, and the synod is meeting next week to pick up the pieces as best it can.

The rejected procedure - called Option G because it was once seventh on a list of possibilities being considered - emerged from careful debate, with the eventual support of two thirds of the synod's membership, after all sorts of variations of substance and of detail had been discussed and turned down. It authorized remarriage in church of some whose previous marriage had been dissolved, laying down procedures to identify those cases where this would be appropriate. The proposal now coming forward, which might be called the Bishop's Option because it comes from that House and because episcopal discretion is its fundamental principle, has many elements which the synod did not want to incorporate into Option G. That alone is reason for hesitation. What seemed a bad idea a year ago is put forward as a good idea now. In fact Option G was a pretty fair attempt of which the synod need not be ashamed, and its rejection indicates that what the church has been trying to achieve is in fact unobtainable. The Bishops' Option, when thoroughly tested in debate, will be found to fall even further off the mark: indeed the synod may remember that it said almost as much last year, in shaping Option G.

The bishops will tell the synod that their consultations with the clergy disclosed, along with widespread dislike of Option G,

widespread support for the principle that a second marriage in church ought to be available in certain cases. That is their mandate for their new method. It is a questionable mandate. The clergy's response requires more sensitive interpretation than that for what is most striking about opinion in the church is that no common mind exists on what those special circumstances might be, nor even on what theory should be applied to devise general ground-rules. And that fact may stand for something deeper still: it could be the inarticulate voice of Christian conscience hinting that the church should not head in this direction at all.

Important changes in doctrine and practice of this kind are inadvisable unless there is a clear and coherent theological basis for them, and unless there is general consent to this basis. That cannot be said. In the Church of England there are many theologies of marriage, and many theological explanations of what divorce and remarriage entails, and none is dominant. What is virtually universal is the belief that Christian marriage ought of its nature to be lifelong. The reasons for wanting to remarry people who have been divorced are usually called "pastoral", meaning a sense of spiritual responsibility for those who have experienced failure in married life. So option G was "pastoral" in emphasis, with some theological dressing.

It was not surprising that the synod went down that road. Members were told, in effect, that a way could be devised by means of which they could have their cake and eat it, to be pastoral to sad cases while also upholding the Christian ideal of permanence. Any group would be likely to grasp at such an attractive proposition, not at that stage knowing that they were asking for too much. The church ought now to address the basic issue once more, with its new wisdom learnt in the experience of first writing, and then tearing up, Option G, and frankly admitting that there is not some Option H or I or J waiting to be discovered which would do the trick after all.

Within a discipline which rationed church marriage to one per lifetime, so to speak, there is unexplored scope for more pastorally sensitive treatment of those who seek the church's spiritual help but cannot be accommodated within the discipline.

Any clergyman who feels he ought in conscience to perform a church wedding in these circumstances is already free to do so under the law of the land, though hitherto he has been discouraged by the church's own declarations. Recent developments will have diminished the force of these. More clergy will avail themselves of this right if the church's own discipline is not relaxed. That the church can live with. But it would do better by being more precise about the real spiritual needs of a couple at this moment in their lives. They do not ask the church to condone or condemn their relationship, but to provide an appropriate setting in which they can pray and be prayed for, with family and friends, leaving judgment to God. This is not quite the same as the already widespread practice of holding so-called "services of blessing" after a registry office marriage - an ad hoc and unofficial rite tainted with ambiguity and a suspicion of hypocrisy as if the church was willing to confirm a marriage it had been unwilling to administer. Instead of this there should be a standard form, without ambiguity of title or content, of the same quality as the rest of the church's public services, and explicitly distanced from the marriage service, designed solely to help the couple to be together in the presence of God. That is all they really need if their desire for the church's ministry is genuine. This is the sort of generous ministry the church can supply while retaining the integrity of its doctrinal position.

Those who are divorced may even prefer it to a church wedding, finding it more closely aligned to their true situation and therefore more truly pastoral. Having done its best and failed, for honourable reasons, to find the means to contain conflicting priorities, the Church of England can return with renewed self-confidence to its traditional witness to the Christian ideal, and who can doubt that that is a witness society - in the midst of the present divorce epidemic - needs to hear? It was a tradition the synod hoped would somehow stay alive in spite of the operation of Option G, a doubtful proposition; it is a tradition which would be even more gravely threatened by the Bishops' Option; it is the true Anglican tradition, and well-intentioned efforts to dilute it can now be abandoned with a good conscience.

VOTARIES OF SCIENCE

Fellows of the Royal Society meet on Wednesday for a postmortem on the election last year of Mrs Margaret Thatcher as an FRS. Forty fellows have requisitioned the meeting and will put forward an amendment to the statute under which Mrs Thatcher was elected. The statute declares a procedure, which is distinct from that by which fellows are ordinarily elected, for the election of persons who "either have rendered conspicuous service to the cause of science, or are such that their election would be of signal benefit to the Society". They may be enrolled at the rate of one a year, and there are generally a dozen or so at any given time.

Under that rule for special election, which came in at the beginning of the century, the only prime ministers not to be elected before 1940 were Campbell-Bannerman, who died early, and Lloyd George, a dubious quantity when it comes to honours. Fortunes have been more mixed since the war. Churchill, Attlee, Macmillan, Wilson and Thatcher have been singled out. Eden, Home, Heath and Callaghan have not, yet been admitted to the temple of science - perhaps you have to last for more than one Parliament.

The critics would like both the procedure and the criteria contained in the statute to be redrawn, so as to insist upon some identifiable contribution to science, though it need not be as a practitioner of any branch of it. A second in chemistry at Somerville is a creditable achievement, but it does not in the ordinary way carry with it an FRS. The citation the society concocted for Mrs Thatcher's

candidacy went on to speak of her continued interest in science through her legal and political careers adding that "as secretary of state for education and science and as prime minister she has done much to strengthen the cause of science in the United Kingdom". It is that on which the dissenting fellows choked as they looked around them at the condition of university laboratories and publicly funded research programmes after five years of Thatcher discipline. They felt that Mrs Thatcher had been made honorary president of the Milk Marketing Board when she stepped down from the ministry of education.

Whatever the Royal Society eventually decides to do about these special elections - and the council concedes that the time has come round again for a general revision of statutes - it should not be too puritanical about the admission of lay eminence. The society was founded in 1662, in descent from Robert Boyle's "invisible academy" of natural philosophers. From the word go the well-disposed and well-connected outnumbered by about two to one the men of science proper. Sir Joseph Banks, the longest serving and one of the greatest presidents, counselled the inclusion of those whom, from their position in society or their fortune, it might be desirable to retain as patrons of science.

A mood of reform seized the society in the second quarter of the nineteenth century resembling the contemporary Evangelical assault on the east and amplitude of the Established Church. Zeal and high seriousness took over. The society was held to be too little occupied in

the advancement of science. There were too many dilettanti, too many non-playing members. A comprehensive revision of statutes was achieved in 1847 including changes in the method of election. This was quickly followed by the transformation of the Royal Society into the scientific institution of preeminence that it has remained. Even so, special provision was made for the election, without scientific qualification, of princes, peers and privy councillors. The society was still mindful of the advantages of its informal establishment.

In spite of all the social changes these advantages remain, and the Royal Society may as well continue to enjoy them; and anyway some traces of establishment are appropriate in view of the public functions the society performs. It could adopt the device of honorary fellowships but that is not quite the same thing. Its tradition has been to recruit from among the rich and powerful on the basis of equality. A body of scientists that has swallowed in its day the first Lord Iveagh, Sir Otto Beit, Lord Nuffield, J. D. Rockefeller, Eamon de Valera, Emperor Hirohito and a long line of native statesmen unknown for their familiarity with the map of science, need not be too squeamish at this stage of its life.

Its mistake has been to dress up a conference speech on the white heat of the technological revolution or a chemistry degree followed by a spell in the education department as if they qualified a person for reception as a votary of science. Let such men and women be recognized for what they are: eminent, powerful, good to have on one's side.

Another and significant consequence is that defendants are being denied access to counsel of their choice and are having to accept counsel who are available to visit the prison during normal hours. Urgent action is required.

Yours truly,
DAVID ROBERTS, President.
Bristol Law Society,
The Law Library,
The Guildhall,
Broad Street, Bristol.
February 17.

Courts' circular

From Mr David Roberts
Sir, It is good to note (report, February 14) that the Home Secretary is issuing a circular to courts commending proposals to reduce delays. May I draw attention to a source of serious delay in trials which his department appears unwilling to remove.

Visits to prisoners on remand in local prisons by barristers and solicitors have, on occasion and for

Keeping political balance in EEC

From Mr Geoffrey Harris
Sir, Your report from Strasbourg (February 16) states that Lord Carrington who suggested that having a Labour member of the European Commission was necessary in order to overcome Labour hostility to the European Community. This is surely somewhat misleading.

The fact is that all the countries with more than one commissioner have for some years respected the necessity for political balance in these appointments, and since the functions of the Commission are highly and primarily political the choice of a businessman would be a political choice.

To disguise such a choice on the grounds that the person was not just a close associate of the Prime Minister but had a lot of managerial experience would be quite unconvincing. There is, moreover, no evidence that other countries plan to abandon the tradition of keeping political balance which has enabled people like Claude Cheysson and Roy Jenkins to play a major political role, even when their parties were not in power.

For many years the role of the Commission has been weakened, and instead of acting as a motive force for effective decision-making the Commission has been evolved into a somewhat weak secretariat of the Council and has lost any semblance of a clear political profile.

Coupled with the obsessive and sometimes self-destructive use of the veto in the Council (e.g. *Esprit* - the European Strategic Programme for Research and Development in Information Technologies), this had led to an almost total paralysis in the Community's key institutions. The European Parliament has only been doing its duty in pointing this out, issuing warnings about the consequences and making proposals for reform.

The problem of appointing commissioners is not in fact Mrs Thatcher's real problem. The problem is what it has been for some time, the absence of any clear aims or strategy for the development of the Community and deep divisions within the Conservative Party on the whole issue.

The possible break-up of the European Conservative Group and the remarkable three-way split in the historic vote on Parliament's proposal for a new treaty are only the visible signs of what is clearly a deep and intractable problem for the British Conservatives. Similar differences are apparent in the House of Commons in EEC debates.

To try now to sabotage the attempt of the Labour Party to develop a new and constructive policy towards the EEC by removing the Labour commissioner would therefore be an extraordinary case of abuse of power. It is hard also to see how it could be in the interests of Britain or the Community.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFF HARRIS,
Socialist Group Secretariat,
European Parliament,
97-113 rue Belliard,
1049 Brussels,
Belgium,
February 17.

Thoughts on lorries

From Brigadier N. H. L. Chesshyre

Sir, The current unrest in France underlines the dangers for Britain of a Channel tunnel. Once a tunnel was in being cross-Channel ferry routes, including those to Belgium and Holland, would inevitably wither down to a fraction of their present capacity.

The French government would then hold a trump card for use in the unhappy event of a serious quarrel with Britain and even a local strike at the French end of a tunnel would be equally damaging.

Yours faithfully,
NEVILLE CHESSHIRE,
5 Willfield Way, NW11,
February 23.

Severn crossing

From Dr J. M. V. Rayner

Sir, Mr A. T. Macmillan's comment (February 17) that by providing a second road crossing a Severn barrage would "kill two birds with one stone" is most distressingly apt. Until it is clear that a tidal barrage represents no risk to the important populations of wading birds and waterfowl in the upper estuary of the Severn, and indeed to all the wildlife of the river, plans to construct such a barrage can only represent a major environmental threat.

The short-term benefits of energy production and relief for the Severn bridge cannot excuse the large-scale environmental destruction which could ensue.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY RAYNER,
University of Bristol,
Department of Zoology,
Woodland Road,
Bristol,
February 17.

Saving suit of armour

From the Master of the Armouries, Tower of London

Sir, In the report on the saving of the Earl of Southampton's armour in Saturday's *Times* (February 18) it was stated that I had said that the Tower would be making the owner "an offer he can not refuse". This is in fact the opposite to what I said because, as is well known, the owner of any object the export of which has been stopped at liberty to refuse an offer by a museum in this country so long as the object is kept in Britain.

Your truly,
VESEY NORMAN,
Master of the Armouries,
HM Tower of London, EC3,
February 23.

Implications of training scheme cuts

From Lady Faithfull

Sir, The Government's current reductions in the part of the Youth Training Scheme known as mode B1 are both damaging and premature. Under this scheme voluntary organisations provide training work-shops and training places in community projects. These seek to offer training and work experience to those 16-year-olds who have failed at school, who have few basic skills and experience attitudes of resentment and hostility to the adult world. They do not fit into employer-run mode A schemes and indeed employers are unable to absorb these young people.

If these 16-year-olds are to succeed on the Youth Training Scheme they need more specialised help and more adult time than employer-based schemes can normally provide. The recently announced cuts will damage the capacity of the scheme to cater adequately for such school-leavers by reducing the number of places which can give them special support and handling.

The Youth Training Scheme came into operation as recently as September. It is quite wrong at this early stage to impose such cuts rather than give sponsors the help and support they need in the task of establishing their schemes on a firm footing.

Yours faithfully,
LUCY FAITHFULL,
House of Lords,
February 22.

From Mr Robert Kirby-Silk, MP for Knowsley North (Labour)

Sir, By the damaging cuts which it has announced in community projects within the Youth Training

Countryside heritage

From Lieutenant-Commander G. G. Marten

Sir, The renewed correspondence about conservation is strong in condemnation of landowners and farmers but weak on effective remedy. Landowners certainly have a duty to conserve and care for their holdings, but they also have a duty to their families, employees and dependants to keep their individual estates afloat.

There is an intense but artificial conflict of interests here. The cause is capital taxation. Few, if any, of the critics are aware of the subtle undertow dragging landowners down and with them the quality of land and landscape.

Take for example an oak wood. Its life spans four or five generations of family ownership. At each successive owner's death capital transfer tax must be paid on the value of the land on which the trees stand at a rate related to the whole of the deceased's estate.

In addition, when the trees are finally cut down, tax must be paid on the sale price at a rate related to the previous death. This multiplication of tax liabilities makes growing oak trees a more certain method of losing money than a lifetime of backing slow horses.

Equality at school

From Mrs Marjorie Seldon

Sir, The SDP is ambivalent in its support to parents paying for independent schools and one reason may be, as Anne Sofer bluntly remarks (feature, February 13) "6 per cent... hardly a huge constituency for any party".

Her view of state education is also unambiguous: "So far from the middle classes having no stake in the state system they are, on the contrary, its supporters and chief beneficiaries."

Professor Thomas Sowell, the distinguished black American economist, recently identified those parents who are pulling their children out of bad state schools as being more than \$5,000 to \$10,000 a year than all who earn above \$25,000.

Eighty-three per cent of all children from the wealthiest families are enrolled in state schools in the good residential areas. He would recognise the situation in Solihull, where plans for a grammar school ran into opposition from the beneficiaries of a good state comprehensive - the middle classes, as noted by Anne Sofer.

How to give all classes equal opportunities in state schooling is the intractable problem posed by Anne Sofer. It has a name - monopoly. All but 6 per cent of

Polish at Arnhem

From Mr Richard Lamb

Sir, In my recently published book, *Montgomery in Europe*, I gave a signal from Field Marshal Montgomery to the then CIGS (Chief of the Imperial General Staff), Viscount Alanbrooke, about the conduct of the Polish Parachute Brigade during the Arnhem operation in September, 1944. This signal which had not previously been used in any history of the campaign, was highly derogatory to the Polish troops and I wrote that it was a "harsh judgement" and that Montgomery was seeking a "scapegoat" for the failure of the Arnhem operation.

Would you be good enough to allow me to put the record straight in your correspondence columns? The signal, dated October 17, 1944, reads:

"The Para Bde fought very badly here and the men showed no intention of fighting if it meant risking their own lives. I do not want this Bde here again and possibly you may like to send them to join other Poles in Italy."

Colonel Antoni Rawicz-Szczerbo, the last commanding officer of 1st Polish Parachute Brigade, has written to me that this signal was "a scathing condemnation of brave men who gave their lives in the common cause" and that many Polish paratroopers lie next to their British comrades' graves in the cemetery at Oosterbeek while other

Fears from the hereafter

From Canon G. B. Bentley

Sir, Bishop Huddleston's letter (February 22) strikes me as alarming, and not a little sinister. When the time comes for me to depart this life I want my body to be allowed to decay, not to have bits of it kept alive in the interests of strangers whose guilt I might hate. If I knew them, I do not want to run the risk of such bits being made accessory to actions of which I could not approve, perhaps even to grave crimes.

I do not want my death to be surrounded by a flock of surgeons, each waiting impatiently to pick out the morsel he fancies. Nor do I want my body to be kept ticking over after my death to facilitate its cannibalisation. Am I alone in this?

The sinister thing is the Bishop's insistence that Big Brother should arrogate to himself authority to conscript our vital organs and employ cannibals to eat anybody's body. Unless he has resigned an objection in his lifetime, this is no invasion of human rights, he maintains, since an objector can opt out.

But conscription is a "deprivation of rights" despite allowance for conscientious objection and only tolerable in a national emergency. Moreover, surgeons admit that they do not always become aware of the wishes of the dead person before the removal of organs has taken place.

The Bishop supports his argument by a novel interpretation of the right to life. According to him it includes a right to other people's kidneys when needed, which in its turn imposes an obligation on the other people to make them available. That is tantamount to saying, "I give you a new commandment."

I wonder how he would revise the commandment at a burial? "We commit what remains of his body to the ground." Should there not also be a prayer that the bits of it still living may enjoy a long life and a happy one?

I do think that in this matter the Bishop's deeply compassionate heart has got the better of his head and his sense of distributive justice.

Yours faithfully,
G. B. BENTLEY,
College of St George,
5 The Cloisters,
Windsor Castle,
Berkshire,
February 23.

No end of trouble

From Lord O'Neill of the Maine

Sir, This week I was sad to see the report of a young man's death at Dunloy, Co. Antrim, described in many reports as an extreme republican area.

This little Catholic village holds happy memories for me. In my last election in February, 1969, I was engaged in a house-to-house canvass in the area - unheard of previously for any person in my position - when I was told that a large gathering was awaiting me at the crossroads in the centre of the village.

I had with me a small loudspeaker and, as they wanted me to address them, I fought my way through the crowd to this vantage point, surrounded by waving Union Jacks. I spoke to this cheering Catholic crowd. Nor can I forget that this demonstration was incredible because only the week before the Government had closed their only local industry, an abattoir.

Had extremists not succeeded in polarising opinion, perhaps beyond repair, over 2,000 people who are now dead might be alive today and many more incurably wounded would today be hale and hearty.

Those who believe that there is a feasible solution to these "troubles" are either ignorant of the facts or merely "hoping for the best".

Yours sincerely,
TERENCE O'NEILL,
House of Lords,
February 23.

Neighbourhood watch

From the Rev D. S. R. Redman

Sir, The letter from Mr Miles Hardie (February 20) calling for a wider application of "Neighbourhood Watch" from crime to health and social welfare, deserves considerable support and exploration.

Much work has already done up community health levels in setting up community help themselves and to facilitate the better use of state and voluntary agencies. One such scheme in a village in Kent has a successful 10-year record whilst in my own commuter community a new scheme is enthusiastically being organised.

This enthusiasm is matched by a very "lukewarm" response by local residents to the proposals from Neighbourhood Watch on its own.

There is much good will and untapped local expertise which can be harnessed and used for the benefit of the community and at the same time providing a healthy partnership between people and the state, which sadly in our time have developed two identities.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS REDMAN,
The Village,
17 Kingswood Road,
Shortlands,
Bromley,
Kent,
February 20.

Farewell to arms

From Mr D. W. Plampong

Sir, I suppose finding a peaceful use for gun cartridges (letter, February 22) is a bit like beating swords into ploughshares.

Yours faithfully,
D. W. PLAMPONG,
7 Grove Gardens,
Teddington,
Middlesex,
February 22.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 24: His Excellency Monsieur Jean-Paul van Bellinghen was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Belgium.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty: Monsieur Nestor Cocks (Minister Plenipotentiary), Captain Herman Stradiot (Military, Naval and Air Attaché), Monsieur Bernard Lacroix (Minister-Counselor (Economic)), Monsieur Jan Gruls (Counselor (Political)), Monsieur Claude Rijnbeens (2nd Secretary (Economic)), Monsieur Pierre Vanden (2nd Secretary (Political)), Monsieur André Querton (Attaché (Economic)) and Monsieur Lucien De Wulf (Attaché (Consular)).

Madame van Bellinghen had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Sir Antony Acland (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) who had the honour of being received by Her Majesty was present and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

His Excellency Monsieur Matungu Nkuman Tavun and Madame Matungu were received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Zaire to the Court of St James's.

Mr Justice Hutchison had the honour of being received by The Queen on his appointment as Justice of the High Court of Justice when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood.

The Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia visited The Queen and remained to luncheon.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were present.

The following had the honour of being invited to the reception: Dr Ghazi Al Gossbi (Minister of Health), His Excellency Mohammed Ibrahim Al Masoud (Minister of State), His Excellency Abdul Aziz Turki (Deputy Commander of the National Guard), His Excellency the Saudi Arabian Ambassador, the Lord and

Lady Carrington, General Sir John and Lady Stanier, Admiral Sir James and Lady Eberle and Sir James Craig.

The Duke of Edinburgh arrived at Church Fenton in the Royal Train this morning and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for North Yorkshire (the Marquess of Northampton).

His Royal Highness drove to John Smith's Tadcaster Brewery Ltd and, escorted by the Chairman of John Smith's (Mr J. W. Whitworth), toured the Brewery.

The Duke of Edinburgh subsequently visited Killingbeck Hospital, Leeds and, having been received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for West Yorkshire (Sir William Bulmer), His Royal Highness named the Mountbatten Non-Invasive Heart Unit, opened the Unit's new extension, and was entertained at luncheon.

This afternoon the Duke of Edinburgh toured the factory of Rose Forgive Ltd (Chairman, Mr W. A. Brown).

His Royal Highness was received on arrival by the Lord Mayor of Leeds (Councillor M. Dodgson).

The Duke of Edinburgh later visited Lucas Aerospace, Electrical Division, at Bedford and was received by the Lord Mayor of Bedford (Councillor N. Free).

His Royal Highness opened and toured the factory, escorted by the Chief Executive of Lucas Aerospace Ltd, (Mr G. Moore) and the Director and General Manager (Dr A. Watkins).

The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended the Variety Club of Great Britain's "Woman of the Year" dinner at the Queen's Hotel, Leeds and was received by the Chief Executive of the Variety Club (Mr Norman Garrod) and the Chairman of the Leeds Committee (Mr Bobbie Caplin).

By command of the Queen, the Lord Lucas of Chilworth (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon upon the departure of The President of Italian Republic and bade farewell to His Excellency on behalf of Her Majesty.

A memorial service for Hereward Wake will be held in the Chapel of St John's School, Leatherhead, on Saturday, March 24, at noon. There will be a buffet luncheon after the service. Tickets for which may be obtained from the Recorder at the school.

Science report

Japan revises space plans to suit US

Tokyo (Asahi News Service) - The Japanese Government has agreed to revise its plans for the country's modest space programme. The new projects avoid any further conflict with the United States in the field of advanced technology.

The idea is to concentrate on a launch vehicle and on satellite applications for Japan - domestic television broadcasting, commercial communications, meteorology, ocean and land resources exploration, and astronomy.

Japan will seek involvement with the United States in the American space station programme for the wider use and exploration of space. The revised programme consists of three main targets:

- The development of launch vehicle H-II, which will be capable of placing a two-ton satellite into geostationary orbit by 1991.
- The launch of about fifty satellites in the next 15 years on vehicles leased from other countries and on Japan's own small rockets.
- Collaboration in the space station.

An agreement on space cooperation was signed between the US and Japan in 1969, but it retained decisions-making in the hands of the US and restricts collaboration with other countries.

Development of the H-II launch vehicle would enable Japan to launch communications satellites for South-east Asian countries. That would place Japan in competition with the US space shuttle and the European Space Agency's Ariane rocket.

The plan for the H-II vehicle is an extension of the H-I rocket being developed to place a 550kg satellite in orbit by 1987.

The present workhorse of the Japanese space effort is the N-II rocket, capable of launching a communications satellite of 350kg.

Last month a broadcasting spacecraft named YURI-2A was carried aloft by a N-II. Although about two-thirds of the components were made in Japan, control of the main systems was kept by US engineers.

Sweet illusion of the good old faith

The late John Robinson was a fine theologian and a man of remarkable insight. He knew that the circumstances of the present age demand a wholesale reassessment of the Christian faith.

If there ever was a time when the good old belief in a set of unchangeable dogmas untouched by time held good, it is certainly not now.

In fact, it could be shown that the picture of everybody understanding the Bible simply and literally and believing in a system of cut-and-dried doctrine unaltered since the beginning is a sweet illusion, like the sweet illusion of an eternally relevant *Authorized Version* or *Book of Common Prayer*.

Religion, like everything else under the moon, continually changes, continually requires to be adjusted, reexamined, reformed, interpreted anew as it is "by chance and nature's changing course untrimm'd".

In periods of slow change, this necessity is felt more gradually; in periods of rapid change, like

ours, the necessity is more obvious and pressing. But Robinson never stands still.

The entirely new perspective forced upon any thinking Christian by the arrival of biblical criticism (no new phenomenon, for it has been with us as long as well over a century), and the revolutions of thought brought about by the Renaissance, the Enlightenment and the rise of science have made a new estimate of the Christian faith an imperative necessity.

John Robinson understood that well, and with that task he continually wrestled, most notably in his *Honest to God*, but also in most of his other works.

The other point which John Robinson understood very well was that the need for the reexamination of Christianity does not necessarily entail an abandonment of the great truths enshrined in the Christian tradition, nor of the essential and central place of the Bible in Christian thought and doctrine. He was not a radical theologian in the sense of wishing to

abandon the doctrines, for instance, of the Trinity, of the Incarnation, or the Atonement. He wanted us to rethink them, and here he was entirely justified, but he did not wish to jettison them.

Perhaps the best memorial which any individual can erect to Bishop Robinson is to resolve to take up the task of understanding the Christian faith and of interpreting it in a new perspective, with an altered emphasis, to the society in which he lives. It is manifest, for instance, that the old doctrine of original sin cannot be perpetuated once we have ceased to believe that the first three chapters of Genesis give us an historically reliable account of the origin of mankind.

Many would regard it as our plain duty (though here John Robinson was an interesting exception) to frame our belief in the Incarnation so as to take account of the fact that St John's Gospel in the greater part of its record of what Jesus said is not giving us his actual words or teaching, but is

interpreting his significance by means of discourses written in his name.

It is almost an axiom today that belief in the existence of God does not arise by irresistible logic either from a philosophical or a scientific investigation of the world, but must be achieved in a more complex and perhaps more profound manner.

Where that leaves us as far as certainty in belief is concerned and what the ordinary clergy can do about that situation are matters which perhaps can be considered later. Enough for the moment to say that Bishop John Robinson, if he has done nothing else, has left us a noble example of the kind of activity in which thoughtful Christians today ought to engage. It is the task of determining what is worth believing and what is not, and why we believe in the faith which we hold.

Richard Hanson
Professor of theology,
Manchester University

OBITUARY

THE REV DR SHERWIN BAILEY

Sexuality and Christian teaching

The Rev Dr Sherwin Bailey, who died on February 9 at the age of 73, was a former Chancellor and Precentor of Wells Cathedral, and had written a number of works on sexuality and marriage which had an influence on thinking in the Church of England in the postwar years.

Derrick Sherwin Bailey was born on June 30, 1910, and educated at Alcester Grammar School, in Warwickshire. After some years in insurance he was ordained a priest in 1943, and spent nine years as Anglican chaplain at Edinburgh University. From 1951 to 1959 he worked for the Church of England Moral Welfare Council.

During that time he published a series of books on the

sexual aspects of moral theology, beginning with *The Mystery of Love and Marriage* in 1952. In 1955 he published *Homosexuality and the Western Christian Tradition*, a monograph in which he argued against many commonly held theories about the proper Christian attitude to the subject.

In general Bailey argued for the view that sexuality should be seen as something positively good; and in his writing on homosexuality he foreshadowed subsequent change in attitude to it, and in the law.

In 1962 he became a Canon Residentiary of Wells Cathedral. He remained there until 1974, serving as Chancellor and Precentor, and the literary activity of his later years centred on the history of the Chapter and its records.

COLONEL W. J. SHOOLBRED

A correspondent writes: Walter Shoolbred, who died on February 23, at the age of 78, will long be remembered with admiration and affection by many disabled war pensioners from the three services throughout the country to whose welfare and comfort he had devoted the last 20 years of his life.

In 1963 he became director of the "Not Forgotten" Association which was founded in 1920 "in the service of wounded and disabled ex-servicemen and women".

His dedication, energy, and attention to detail and his single-mindedness of purpose had a marked effect in increasing the resources available to provide for the disabled. But much of his strength lay in his determination to spend as much time as possible visiting hospitals, meeting the disabled, listening to their problems and travelling with them on expeditions and occasions organized by the Association.

After his retirement in 1981 he was appointed vice-president and continued to take an active part in the numerous occasions organized by the Association.

He was educated at Harrow and the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich and was commissioned in to the Royal Artillery in 1931. In 1931 he transferred to the Indian Cavalry and joined Hodson's Horse (4th Duke of Cambridge's Own Lancers). During the war he saw active service in the Middle East and Italy where he was appointed OBE and was Mentioned in Despatches.

After Indian Independence he transferred back to the Royal Artillery with whom he served until he retired in 1958 after commanding the Army Apprentice College at Chesham. He then became Editor of the *British Army Review* a post he held until he joined the "Not Forgotten" Association.

He was, for 25 years, Honorary Secretary of the Indian Cavalry Officers Association devoted to keeping together those who had served together in pre-independence India. But he also maintained very close touch with his old regiment and with the new armies of India and Pakistan and played a significant part in building and maintaining the relationship with this country which exists today.

In 1935 he married Millicent Rodling who died in 1981 and is survived by one son and one daughter.

MR HUGH WAKEFIELD

Mr Hugh Wakefield, who died suddenly at his home at Frigiana, in southern Spain, on February 8 at the age of 67, was Keeper of the Circulation Department at the Victoria and Albert Museum from 1960 to 1973, and an authority on ceramics and glass of the Victorian period.

His two books, *Nineteenth Century British Glass* (1961 and 1982) and *Victorian Pottery* (1962), became standard works. He also edited the *Victorian Collector* series and contributed to a number of other publications, including *World Ceramics* (1968).

After education at King Edward's School, Birmingham, and Trinity College, Cambridge, he joined the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments in 1938 and apart from war service from 1942 to 1946, he remained there until 1948. He

then joined the Victoria and Albert Museum as an assistant keeper.

During his time there he was also a governor of the National Museum of Wales 1960-75, a member of the Council of the Museums Association 1960-63, and a member of the Crafts Advisory Council 1971-1975. From 1974 to 1981 he was chairman of the committee for museums of applied art of the International Council of Museums.

Hugh Wakefield had a warm and outgoing personality. Always approachable, he generously shared his knowledge and expertise with others. After his retirement in 1975 he served as executive committee member and judge for the National Heritage Museum of the Year Award.

He is survived by his wife Hilary and a son and a daughter.

MR L. P. THOMPSON-McCAUSLAND

Mr Lucius Perrott Thompson-McCausland, CBE, who died on February 16 at the age of 79, was an Adviser to the Governor of the Bank of England from 1949 to 1965, and as such played a leading part in matters of international monetary policy.

He was born on December 12, 1904, and educated at Eton and King's College, Cambridge. He had a short spell with Holburn Wagg and Co., the merchant bankers, and then spent some years in financial journalism, first with the *Financial News* and later with *Moody's Economist*. He joined the Bank of England in 1939.

Throughout his time there he concentrated on international monetary issues. He went with

Keynes to meetings that prepared the way for the Bretton Woods conference, towards the end of the war. After the war was over he was involved in opening up the commodity markets.

In 1949 he became an Adviser to the Governor, and in that capacity he was later a senior member of the British delegation at meetings of the Ottawa committee, which elaborated the system of special drawing rights. In the early 1960s he was responsible for much of the thinking that went into the Maundling plan for the sterling balances.

After his retirement from the Bank of England in 1965 he spent three years as a consultant to the Treasury on international monetary problems.

MR RONALD MOODY

A correspondent writes: Ronald Moody, the Jamaican-born sculptor who lived and worked in London for nearly 40 years, died on February 6 at the age of 74.

His outstanding works are probably the massive, dignified but peculiarly sensitive human figures he carved from hard woods like oak, teak and rosewood. They are neither typically African, in a narrow "ethnic" sense, nor typically Western. They evoke the kind of classical calm found in the history of many cultures - in Africa, for example, in Egyptian wood sculpture or the Nigerian life terra-cotta heads, both of which influenced Moody's work.

Ronald Moody was born in Kingston, Jamaica, in 1910. Breaking the mould of a conservative middle-class family, he left Jamaica to become an artist in the early 1930s, never to return.

He worked and exhibited in Paris until the War and the Occupation forced him to make the perilous journey to Britain. He settled in London. Aside from his personal work, he carried out a good many portrait commissions.

Though representatives of African and Caribbean museums visited his Chelsea studio to acquire his work, and he was awarded Jamaica's highest cultural honour, the Musgrave Gold Medal, in 1978, to the British art world he remained very little known.

In 1976 he headed the UK Visual Arts Committee of the Festival of Black and African Arts and Culture (FESTAC), held in Lagos, Nigeria. His sculpture was last seen in London at a special exhibit in mark 21 years of Jamaican independence held at the Commonwealth Institute last September.

Lady Naden, widow of Sir Wilfred Naden, CBE, formerly Chief Industrial Commissioner, Ministry of Labour and National Service, died on January 25 at the age of 84. She was Louise Violet Ryan, and she married Sir Wilfred Naden as his second wife in 1967. He died in 1978.

Mr James Hornby, who died on February 21 at the age of 79, was headmaster of Bramcote School, Scarborough, 1957-64, and of Clifton College, Bristol, 1964-72. He was elected chairman of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools in 1966.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R. J. Bass
and Miss K. L. Tomlinson
The engagement is announced between the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Bass, of King's Langley, Hertfordshire, and Kathryn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. K. Tomlinson of Derby, Derbyshire.

Mr P. J. Diggle
and Dr J. M. Brown
The engagement is announced between Peter James Diggle, the son of Mr. J. I. Diggle and of Mrs. M. Diggle, of Bury, and Judith Margaret, daughter of the late Rev. W. Brown and of Mrs. J. M. Brown, of Putney.

Mr M. A. Lee
and Miss D. C. Gibson
The engagement is announced between Martin, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Lee, of Mulberry Cottage, Barrow Lane, Langton Green, Tisbury, Wiltshire, and Deborah, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Gibson, of Aldburgh Hall, Masham, Ripon, North Yorkshire.

Mr D. G. D. Metson
and Miss D. R. Brook
The engagement is announced between David, youngest son of the late Major J. A. Metson and Mrs. Metson, of Brook End, Little Dunmow, Essex, and Diana, youngest daughter of the late Mr. W. Brook, of Rotherham, South Yorkshire, and Mrs. A. M. Brook, now living in Poole, Dorset.

Mr E. P. W. Slater
and Miss A. S. Farn
The engagement is announced between Paul, elder son of Mrs D. E. Slater, of Lichfield, Staffordshire, and Allison, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Farn, of Auckland, New Zealand.

Mr H. W. R. Stewart
and Miss S. E. Brooks
The engagement is announced between Hugh Williams Ryan, eldest son of Captain John S. Stewart, RM (Retd) and Mrs. Stewart, of The Mill House, Olney, Buckinghamshire, and Suzanne Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mr. C. R. Brooks, of Tywardreath, Cornwall, and Mrs. R. J. Brooks, of Thorougham Slad Manor, Blisley, Gloucestershire.

Mr R. G. Weedon
and Miss M. A. Hart
The engagement is announced between Richard, only son of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Weedon, of Tisbury, Gloucestershire, and Hongkong, and Mary-Anne, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. W. Hart, of Tonbridge, Kent, and Bombay.

Captain R. L. Willett, RE
and Miss K. E. McConnel
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. P. J. Willett, of Ashburton, Devon and Rosa, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. R. McConnel, of Beardsden, Glasgow.

Mr D. G. W. Wilson
and Miss M. E. Sealer
The engagement is announced between David, younger son of Colonel and Mrs. J. B. Wilson, of Totton, Kent, and Margaret Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mr. Harry Senior, of Bourne, Lincoln, and Mrs. Eva Senior, of Wimbledon.



Help for victims' relatives: Chief Superintendent P. J. Ryan, of Chelsea Police Station (left), receiving a cheque for £1,000 from Chief Petty Officer Frank Walker on board HMS Raleigh at Portsmouth yesterday. The money was raised among the crew and ashore for relatives of the Harrods bombing victims, who included WPC Jane Arbuthnot. Her father, Mr Jake Arbuthnot (right), is a retired lieutenant-commander.

Earl of Stockton, Viscount Macmillan of Ovenden

The Viscountcy and Earldom of the United Kingdom conferred upon Mr Harold Macmillan, OBE, have been gazetted by the names, styles and titles of Viscount Macmillan of Ovenden, of Chelwood Gate, in the County of East Sussex, and of Stockton-Tees, in the County of Cleveland, and Earl of Stockton.

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr John Arlott, 70; Mr Anthony Burgess, 67; Mr Tom Courtenay, 47; Sir Anthony Duff, 64; Mr Nicholas Edwards, MP, 52; Mr George Harrison, 41; Sir Alan Marre, 70; Lord Justice Parker, 61; the Right Rev Dr J. A. Ramsbottom, 78; Sir Henry T. Smith, 79; Sir Ian Wallace, 68; Air Marshal Sir Charles Willmott, 68.
TOMORROW: Lord Bridge of Hawick, 67; Mr Justice Farquharson, 56; Sir James Goldsmith, 51; Dr B. J. Greenhill, 64; Major Sir Derrick Tuckson, 53; Captain John Noel, 54; Mr W. R. Price, 58; Mr D. Weekes, 59.

Latest appointments

Sir Julian Ballard, aged 55, Deputy Under-Secretary of State (Europe) and Director, to be Ambassador to West Germany in succession to Sir John Taylor, who will be retiring from the Diplomatic Service.
The Rev Michael Rees, aged 48, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Cambridge, to be the Church Army's chief secretary in succession to the Rev Michael Turner.
Mr Mark Francis, aged 31, former exhibitions organizer at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, to be director of the Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh.
Miss Margaret Matheson, controller of drama, to be head of general administration at the Independent Broadcasting Authority.
Mr Alan Morrison, aged 36, BBC consultant on direct broadcasting by satellite, to be head of general administration at the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

Services tomorrow: Sexagesima

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, 10.30. Holy Communion. 11.30. Service for the Sexagesima. 12.30. Service for the Sexagesima. 1.30. Service for the Sexagesima. 2.30. Service for the Sexagesima. 3.30. Service for the Sexagesima. 4.30. Service for the Sexagesima. 5.30. Service for the Sexagesima. 6.30. Service for the Sexagesima. 7.30. Service for the Sexagesima. 8.30. Service for the Sexagesima. 9.30. Service for the Sexagesima. 10.30. Service for the Sexagesima. 11.30. Service for the Sexagesima. 12.30. Service for the Sexagesima. 1.30. Service for the Sexagesima. 2.30. Service for the Sexagesima. 3.30. Service for the Sexagesima. 4.30. Service for the Sexagesima. 5.30. Service for the Sexagesima. 6.30. Service for the Sexagesima. 7.30. Service for the Sexagesima. 8.30. Service for the Sexagesima. 9.30. Service for the Sexagesima. 10.30. Service for the Sexagesima. 11.30. Service for the Sexagesima. 12.30. Service for the Sexagesima. 1.30. Service for the Sexagesima. 2.30. 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25 FEBRUARY - 2 MARCH 1984 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

The high rollers

The gambling industry by Alan Hamilton Part 1: The casinos

Ten o'clock on a wild, wet February night, and the gale is snatching up the dustbins to spew their garbage over the pavements of Mayfair. Old card-board and orange peel swirl round the Mercedes wheels that line both sides of the street, and a Chinese lady decanted from a maroon Daimler limousine clutches wildly at her billowing skirt. Bleak, Presbyterian weather.

Inside the casino, beyond the polite but vaguely menacing phalanx of uniformed doormen that you would not dream of gatecrashing, rafts of blue aromatic smoke from broomstick-thick, Romeo y Julietas hang in the still, warm air under chandeliers and mahogany panelling redolent of a between-the-wars Cunard stateroom, spiced with a dash of Turkish brothel from the red-shaded lamps over the gaming tables.

The low buzz of conversation from a hundred sober-suited punters is punctuated neither by squeals of delight nor wails of dismay but only by the relentless clack of plastic chips and the bouncing rattle of roulette balls. Fifty-pound notes vanish monotonously down the croupiers' slots without so much as a rustle of protest: they are usually crisp new ones, peeled from a pack.

I am granted the rare facility of a visit, on condition that I do not mention to which casino, and that I keep mum about anyone I happen to recognize therein. Managements are fearful of crossing both the Gaming Board, and its strict ban on advertising, and their customers, who do not appreciate the womb of privacy offered by London's gaming clubs being breached by professional nosy-parkers, particularly those of the Dempster genre.

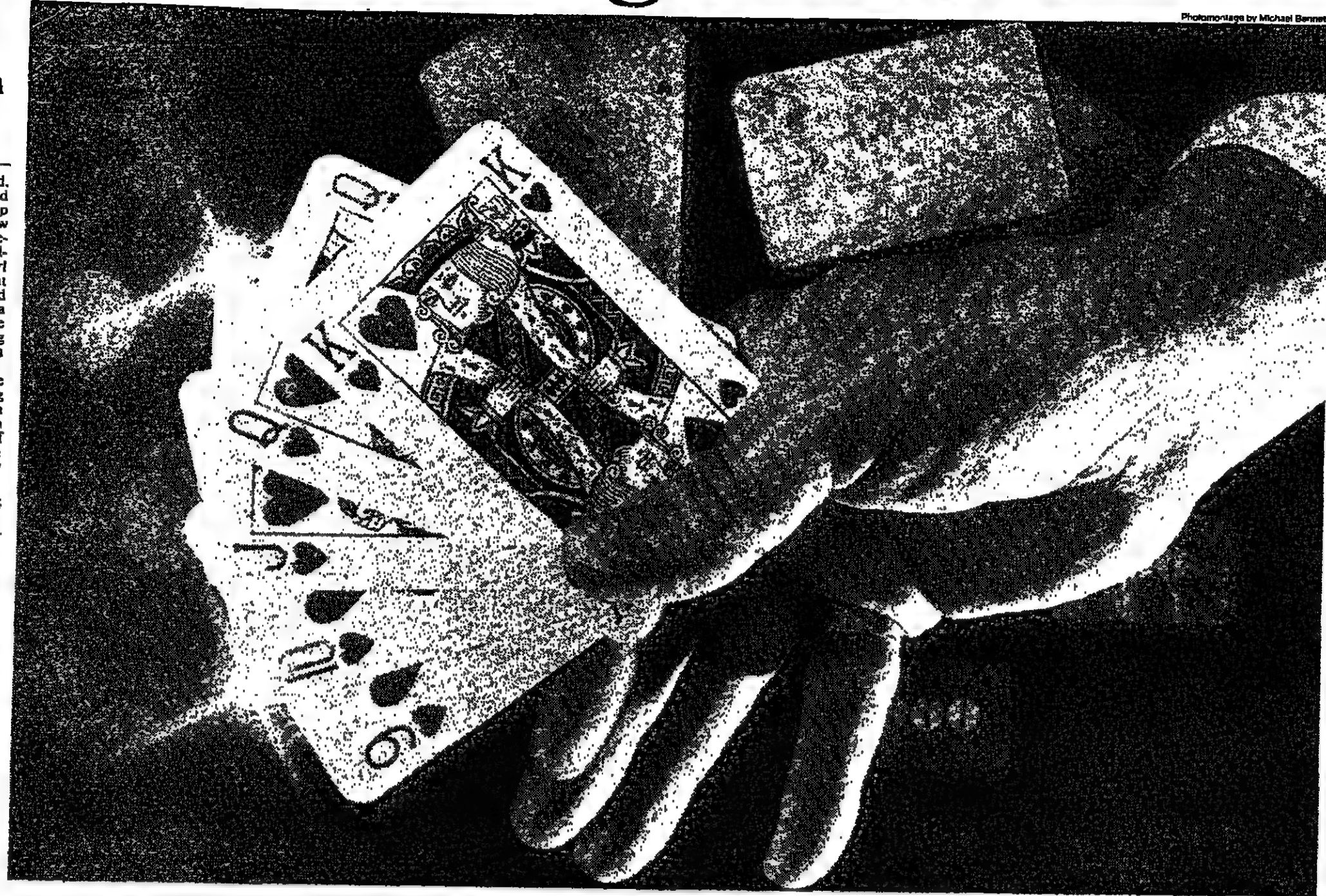
Honouring the bargain presents no problem: I do not recognize a soul, and I have to search for some minutes to find even a recognizably English face.

Arabs predominate, aping local customs in their English-cut suits and their thoroughly English impassivity at the ebb and flow of oil fortunes across the tables, as though being relieved of surplus money was a necessary purgative to be endured by every devout Muslim. Next in number appear to be the Hongkong Chinese, to whom gambling is an endemic and incurable disease and who, feeling no shame at their infection, allow themselves a modest degree of animation at the tables.

Here too are fair numbers of Greeks and Indians, a sprinkling of Nigerians, and just one young blond Englishman in solitary state at the punto banco table, wishing, formerly that somebody would come and play with him. "If we had to rely on Englishmen", the manager confides, "we'd close tomorrow".

Recession is not a word which intrudes too often upon the vocabulary of those who play the London casinos regularly. When the cold winds whistle, those with the best perches don't get blown off the tree. Strange, though, that the birds on the best branches seem to be mostly foreign species, even if most of them do give a London address when applying for casino membership.

In the heady 1960s, when London was having a final fling before the onset of terminal rot, the gay blades of the gaming tables were the likes of John Aspinall, Lord Lucan, Dominic Elwes, Jimmy Goldsmith.



Where are they now? Elwes is dead, Aspinall and Goldsmith are casino proprietors and therefore legally discouraged from being punters, and Lucky Lucan has not been seen at the tables, or anywhere else for that matter, for a while.

Even Aspinall's club, which probably attracts more English than any of the other upper-crust London casinos, regards naive business as an insignificant fraction of its turnover. The proprietor can only guess at the reasons: today's upper-class English are not brought up in the atmosphere of carefree opulence that their fathers were, gaming is no longer fashionable, they don't like clubs full of foreigners, their wealth is in assets rather than the greasy folding stuff, or most likely, they just don't have as much of it as they used to do.

If you discover a genuine home-grown high-roller in the London clubs these days, he is more likely to be a camel-coated car dealer from Dagestan than any dual scion from the pages of *Debut*.

But before you dash off to knit blankets for the starving children of the casino proprietors, consider this: in the year ended August 1983 the total "drop" (the money exchanged for gaming chips, and therefore a very fair guide to total income) in the 19 London casinos was £894m, more than twice the total amount gambled in the 98 British provincial casinos put together.

It was, admittedly, an exceptional year, accounted for by a sudden explosion of business in the late summer of 1982. That apart, London gaming has declined in real terms by about 7 per cent since 1978, and the annual figures to be released by the Gaming Board next month will show the trend continuing. Peak attendances on any one night at the London tables are

down from 1,849 in November 1978 to 1,170 in September 1983.

Business is at the mercy, not of the British economy, but the vicissitudes of Middle East politics. The Arabs first came to London because they had to abandon their traditional gaming centre of Beirut, England was a safe and stable haven for their petrodollars, and they enjoyed the intimate club atmosphere where they could take their vast retinues in reasonable privacy.

They were rich beyond all imagining: the Saudi royal family, Adnan Khashoggi, and the legendary Arab, who in six years cashed £18m worth of cheques at the old Playboy Club, of which only £3m bounced.

Many of them drifted away again, for various reasons. The cleansing fire of the Ayatollah's revolution cut off gigantic Iranian gambling funds at a stroke, and sent chilling ripples of righteousness throughout the Arab world. The brouhaha over the film *Death of a Princess* persuaded many Saudis to abandon London in protest; nor were many of them amused at being pictured in the *Daily Mail* enjoying the wicked high life while back home their subjects were having their hands cut off for fornication and usury.

Last year a severe tremor on the Kuwait stock exchange sent the gamblers from that particular shakhdom scurrying home to find their assets frozen. And then there was the nasty business which is still referred to in some quarters of the London casino business as "the holocaust".

The 1968 Gaming Act has succeeded admirably in its primary purpose of keeping the London casinos out of the hands of organized crime, into which they were on the verge of falling in the mid 1960s. But even the legitimate proprietors

began to find its web of legal strictures uncomfortably tight in their eagerness to grab a slice of what by the late 1970s had become an inordinately rich cake.

Casinos were bribing police officers to raid the police computer for the names of the owners of the cars parked regularly outside rival establishments, so that they could offer inducements to cross the street. The 48-hour rule, which keeps you from the tables until you have been a club member for at least two days, was being regularly breached. And worst of all, some casinos were accepting cheques but not cashing them, and collecting the gambling debts by strongarm methods later.

It all created a highly unpleasant stink: seven casino licences were withdrawn, and three of the major operators - Playboy, Ladbrokes and the Coral group - decided to get out of the London casino business altogether. The bad publicity it still requires a prodigious amount of luck, and a photographic memory for the cards.

American roulette accounts for over 60 per cent of the drop in the London casinos, with punto banco second at 20 per cent, and blackjack at 17 per cent. French roulette and craps, never as popular in Europe as in America, where they like to accompany their gaming with a lot of shouting, are insignificant, as is soft gaming in the form of poker, baccarat, or kalooki, a variation of gin rummy.

Soft gaming, where the casino hires out a seat at a table rather than taking a cut of the pot, was originally introduced as an attraction for women punters, but its lack of profit has largely squeezed it out, although not entirely. Gambling is defined as playing a game of chance or skill where the odds are against you. If the odds are in your

Back in our necessarily anonymous casino, the manager is greeting one punter after another as old friends. Customers tend to be regular, and are known not only by their names but by their credit rating.

The action is overwhelmingly at the roulette tables, confusingly referred to as American roulette when it is in fact the European variety with a single zero, but at which the croupiers call "Place your bets" rather than "Faites vos jeux". The average stake seems to be about £50, well below the permitted maximum. Nearby, three bored croupiers sit awaiting custom at the single French roulette table, the same game but played with a little more élan.

The only other game attracting much attention is blackjack, which the serious punter believes is the only casino activity where the player has the remotest hope of ever having the odds in his favour, although it still requires a prodigious amount of luck, and a photographic memory for the cards.

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favour, it is called investment.

Investment is the game the casinos play. They do not make their profits from customers' spectacular losses; they make it from the steady flow of money across the roulette table, where the single zero gives the house a built-in edge of 2.7 per cent. Considering that in the ebb and flow of win and loss, every chip purchased is wagered on average eight times before the customer cashes in and leaves, the flow of money is, to say the least, steady. Anyone who plays double-zero roulette, where the house's advantage is 5.4 per cent, is a mug.

It's a winning game when the odds are on your side. In 1982 the Ritz and Casanova casinos, which are run jointly by Grand Metropolitan and Pleasureama, together recorded a pre-tax profit of £15m.

The casinos do not like big losers; they are bad for business. And they are, our anonymous manager insists, rare. "We know most of the people in here", he says, "and they know how much they can lose. They are mature people. It is extremely rare that we have to approach a client as though he were a drunk at a bar and politely suggest to him that he has lost enough for one night."

England treats gambling rather like prostitution, recognizing its existence and allowing it as a necessary outlet for deep and dark desires, but ensuring that nothing whatsoever is done to encourage it. The French regard gambling as healthy fun as long as it is kept in its proper place, which is why all the casinos are at the seaside and not in Paris. The Americans see it as a splendid way of raising state revenue, which is why almost anything goes in Las Vegas and the burgeoning new gaming centre of Atlantic City.

English law is so strict that it almost drives casino gaming into the category of a secret fee (£300) every six months when his licence is renewed. But he also pays a levy on the gross gaming yield in his casino - that is, the amount of money staked less the winnings that have been paid out.

The basic rate is 5 per cent, but this rises to 25 per cent for any casino whose gross yield is more than £2.25m in the six-month period. This is designed to ensure that the most profitable London clubs pay the most tax. Aspinalls, for example, paid £3.1m in levy last year, more than a tenth of the total raised by the Chancellor.

The Government's take from casino tax jumped from £5.3m in 1980/81 to £11.5m in 1982/83, and soared to £25.4m in 1982/83. This year's Treasury estimate was for £25m, but it will be comfortably exceeded in the light of the continuing strength of the market.

the Home Office, has become markedly stricter in such matters since the holocaust.

A gambler, faced with a choice, will tend to patronize the casino where he last struck lucky. But beyond that, almost the only way one casino can take business from the others is to acquire bigger and better premises. John Aspinall, the doyen of the London industry, is reopening the old Curzon Club on March 31, which will give him 11 roulette tables instead of his present six, and even plushier surroundings. But he was granted a licence only on condition that he closed his present club in Hans Place.

Similarly, Trident Television is relinquishing its licence on the Connoisseur Club so that it can move nearer the top end of the market in new premises at the Royal Garden Hotel; this will give it six tables instead of five.

Lonrho, as unlikely a casino operator as Trident, is relinquishing its licence on the International Sporting Club, where the lease has expired, to restart the former Playboy Club in Park Lane, but without Bunny girls. The Gaming Board does not like Bunnies, or dancing, or cabaret, or live music.

Despite every effort of English law to ensure that the gambler does not enjoy himself any more than is strictly necessary, London has quietly reestablished itself among the international sporting community. It attracts those who can afford to ignore the incontrovertible fact that, on average, for every £100 of chips you cash, you will have donated £20 to the casino by the time you leave, and who choose to ignore Girolamo Cardano's sixteenth-century dictum: "The greatest advantage in gambling lies in not playing at all."

That's the trouble with the modern English punter: he is playing so little that two provincial casinos, which do not enjoy the benefits of oil revenues, are currently in the hands of the receiver.

A casino going bust? My God, the recession must be every bit as bad as they say.

The owners of London's 19 casinos, with the establishments they run, are:

Grand Metropolitan: Golden Nugget, Sportsman, Palm Beach, Rendzvous.
Trident Television: Victoria, Clermont, Connoisseur (moving to Royal Garden Hotel), Village.
Lonrho: Crookford's, International Sporting (moving to former Playboy Club).
Pleasureama: Madm's, Distinctive Clubs, Charlie Chester's, Golden Horseshoe, John Aspinall's Aspinalls (moving to former Curzon Club with a public company flotation).
Reo Stakis Organization of Glasgow: Stakis Regency, Independents, Cromwell's Mint, London Park Tower.
Under joint ownership (Grand Met 75 per cent, Pleasureama 25 per cent): Ritz, Casanova.

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Rich pickings for the Chancellor



The return of the high-rollers to London's casinos is proving very popular with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. His "take" from gaming duty on casino operations has shot up more than fivefold in the last four years. The duty should raise more than £30m in the current year.

This still represents only a modest 5 per cent of the £600m a year which the Customs and Excise collects from the British gaming and betting public. But, as even casino owners will privately admit, it is a much more realistic and equitable sum than was the case until four years ago, when the whole system of casino taxation was overhauled.

The reforms came into effect in October 1980; before then, the only tax on casino gaming consisted of an annual levy

payable by the casino operators. This was based on a fixed-rate formula linked to the rateable value of the premises and the number of tables in play.

The chief defect of this system, as the Royal Commission on Gambling observed in 1978, was that the amount raised bore little or no relation either to the amount of money being staked or to the casino's profitability. The yield was small, and quite out of proportion to the much higher taxes paid by racecourses and other gaming industries. It was also easily dodged.

Whereas the tax on off-course betting raised 7.5 per cent of the money staked by punters, the commission found the casino levy represented only a miserly 0.13 per cent of bets placed. It was a heaven-sent opportunity for any Chancellor seeking easy pickings.

Under the new rules, the casino operator pays a modest

fee (£300) every six months when his licence is renewed. But he also pays a levy on the gross gaming yield in his casino - that is, the amount of money staked less the winnings that have been paid out.

The basic rate is 5 per cent, but this rises to 25 per cent for any casino whose gross yield is more than £2.25m in the six-month period. This is designed to ensure that the most profitable London clubs pay the most tax. Aspinalls, for example, paid £3.1m in levy last year, more than a tenth of the total raised by the Chancellor.

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Jonathan Davis



Laying the tables: Casino staff preparing for nighty business in Monte Carlo

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL/1

David Hewson turns western eyes on the obscure yet enduring rituals of Tibetan Buddhism

Perplexed by prayer wheels and poverty

It began, as pilgrimages should, in the all-embracing blackness of a south China morning. I had travelled for a week from Peking just to reach Szechuan and the only air entry into Tibet. The route was geographical nonsense, like going to Miami via Alaska, but politics bar the foreigner from making a logical entrance through Nepal.

After a two-hour flight across forbidding peaks, we arrived in the land which had fought for 500 years to keep the foreigner at bay. From our base, a few ramshackle huts rather hopelessly christened Lhasa Guest House Number 2, the Potala Palace rose some six kilometres away through the mist, as tantalizingly aloof as the country over which its royal occupants once ruled. After a fitful sleep I rose early to watch the hoopes gambolling around our lodgings and then ventured out into the past.

It is virtually impossible to see the country through Tibetan eyes. The Chinese, who "liberated" the region in 1951, act as the visitor's hosts. While they are perfectly willing to show foreigners most things they wish to see, the sense of alienation never diminishes. In a way, this increases one's appreciation of Tibet's exoticism, never allowing the indulgence of concentration on the surroundings alone, but forever forcing comparisons.

In any case, much of Tibetan life is utterly inexplicable to any twentieth-century outsider. Outside the Jokhang temple in the heart of Lhasa, Tibetan Buddhism's St Peter's, the dust-stained pilgrims were hard at their devotions. Some had walked more than 1,000 miles, on the hard road from China, to pay their respects.

A cripple scrambled through the squalid bazaar outside the temple, leaning on a makeshift crutch and swinging his one good leg beneath him. Soon he joined his fellow worshippers, some well scrubbed and clearly affluent, some poor and ragged, some virtually destitute. Out-

side the red and gold entrance they discarded their belongings, for one a bright brass prayer wheel which had not stopped spinning that morning, for another a bundle of rags.

Whatever their station, the ritual was the same. A mat was produced to keep the body from the filthy ground, and two handrests, pieces of corrugated card if nothing else was available. The worshipper fell to his devotions for as long as he could manage.

Was there any way in which such simple dedication could be explained to us foreigners, with our expensive cameras, sunglasses and credit cards? I doubted it, and when we entered the temple I knew, Tibet exists as a place apart, distant as much in time as in geographical location.

Gilded statues and the heavy scent of yak butter

Inside the Jokhang, the first thing one notices is the small rising from hundreds of brass bowls scattered around the interior, each filled with clear yak butter in which gutters a short wick. It is a heavy, congestive smell, producing a smoky, yellow light which barely pierces the gloom.

The halls were filled with Tibetans performing their devotions, throwing a handful of barley wheat at the feet of one Buddha, placing a dried cob of corn before another. I wandered past the gilded statues, which reflected an odd shade of gold in the candlelight, and then climbed to the roof grateful for the fresh, cool morning air. The Potala sat majestically in the distance beyond the ornate caves of the Jokhang, and a group of women pounded grain in a corner shaded from the prime brightness of the sun.

Without discomfort, almost without thought, religion penetrated virtually every aspect of Tibetan life. At the School of Medicine, which promised somewhat gingerly to cure

appendicitis, like all ills, without surgery, a doctor outlined patiently how closely medicine thought was allied to Buddhism. In the quiet corners of temples, silent monks would beg with polite smiles for photograph of the Dalai Lama.

Buddhism was all around us when we left Lhasa for three days for Xigatse, a 10-hour drive away through mountain passes of astonishing variety decorated in the most awkward of places with giant emblems from the scriptures.

Western civilization seemed even more distant in Tibet's second city. The accommodation was even more spartan, in National Service-style huts with open latrines at the end of each row. The Tashilumpo monastery, the largest working community of monks still surviving, sits halfway up a rocky hillside, a group of low-slung white buildings penetrated by winding cobbled streets down which maroon-robed monks tottered carrying giant flasks of butter tea.

A group of young men watched us with a shy curiosity, sporting cheap enamel badges which, from afar, looked like images of Blackpool Tower. On closer inspection, they turned out to represent the Potala Palace; the wearers were novice monks, part of the first new intake into Tibet's monastic system since the Cultural Revolution.

We wandered through the echoing alleys; it might be the busiest monastery in Tibet, but it looked depopulated, a magnificent relic creaking through its daily rituals. That evening we returned to listen to the chanting of the different orders, rough and meandering among the 40 monks, delicate and eerie in the inner quarters of the abbots.

Tibet's attraction lies not only in its strangeness but also in the absence of tourists. A shortage of accommodation limits the number of foreigners allowed in at any one time to about thirty. The itinerary



Curious looks: Country sights in Tibet (top left and right); Below left, a pilgrim advances on hands and knees to the great temple of Jokhang

sounds repetitive, a series of monasteries, temples, and other sights. In fact, simply being in the midst of such an archaic society left every traveller I met convinced that he had completed one of the most memorable journeys in a world where exotic travel can be bought from the high street travel agent.

During the months when visitors are allowed to travel, the weather possesses a pleasant European bite, almost alpine in nature. The air, though thin, is refreshingly cool, but not so chill as to demand much more than a jacket and pullover on most occasions. Rain is infrequent and snow occurs only on the higher reaches. If there is

a sudden bout of bad weather, the tourist guides, who seem to expect foreigners to collapse at any moment, carry spare supplies of overcoats along with their oxygen pillows.

Living conditions are basic, with shared bathrooms if one is lucky and a paucity of hot water. The food is edible if

repetitive. Although the Chinese, who make up most of the guides, are clearly sensitive about the politics of Tibet, they are usually amenable to changing itineraries to take in new sights and possess none of the ideological rigidity of the Intourist operative.

I discovered this, much to my

advantage, in Lhasa when, on the advice of an acquaintance who had visited Tibet a few months earlier, I asked to see a private temple which had recently reopened under the relaxation of restrictions on religion introduced by the Chinese in 1980. "I have never heard of it," the Chinese guide

said. But by the next morning he had located the place and we spent a pleasant few hours in the company of an English-speaking Tibetan, just returned from Nepal to help reopen it.

This awe-inspiring remoteness will not last. There is talk of Tibet's first hotel being built, a 1,200-room edifice not far from the Potala, and one can already detect that thirst for the tourist dollar in the faces of some Tibetans hanging around the bazaar outside the Jokhang. In five years, or perhaps even sooner, the last barriers which the Tibetans raised against the outside world, will have fallen. It may well be a place to be seen now or not at all.



are sometimes granted but most visitors will travel in a group. The largest British group operator to Tibet is Voyages Jules Verne, 10

Glentworth Street, London NW1 (01-486 8080), which offers three-week tours for £2,500 per person. The price includes full board and all transport. One week is spent in Tibet, and Peking, Xian, Chengdu, Canton and Hong Kong are also visited. Serenissima Travel, 2 Lower Sloane Street, London SW1 (730 9541), offers a similar itinerary.

Fields of asphodel beneath the peaks of Parnassos

One of the first Greek words I learnt was "louloudhi". Like an inquisitive child I was always pointing at flowers and asking "What's this?" "Louloudhi", came the unvarying reply, no matter what flower I had asked about. Eventually the penny dropped and I realised that louloudhi, simply meant flower.

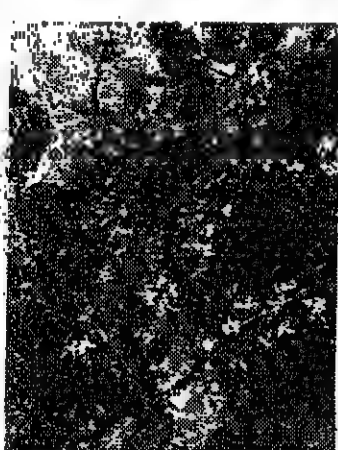
So I tried a different tack. I would say, "I know this is a louloudhi, but what's its name?" The reply was the same, except that it would be preceded by an "Ehi", one of those expressive Greek gestures: a slight expulsion of breath like a mild grunt, accompanied by a lifting of the shoulders, a downturn of the corners of the mouth and slight lowering of the eyelids, meaning, "I don't know, and the fact of my not knowing is in no sense evidence of ignorance. Such questions are trivial". So I gave up asking.

But it is a pity to take no interest in wild flowers in a country like Greece, where nature has been so widely profligate in bestowing both number and variety. Dry statistics tell us that over 6,000 species are to be found there, compared, for instance, with

2,000 in Britain, a country almost twice the size. Of those 6,000 species more than 600 are endemic, many very locally distributed, confined sometimes to one island, or even one mountain. Like the African Violet's relative, *Jankaea hel-dreichii*, which lives on the slopes of Mount Olympus under the not-so-efficacious protection of both gods and secular authorities.

If you have seen only the parched brown landscape of summertime Greece it seems incredible that anything fresh, green or flowery could arise from that dry dirt. Yet even by the beginning of October, when there has been no more moisture than a little dew and a couple of rainstorms since April, the stony ground is covered with cyclamen and autumn crocuses. At Cape Sounion, near the white temple of Poseidon where proto-vandal Byron carved his name, a little sweet-flowered narcissus manages to push its way up to the stony ground through ground thousands of visitors. In the hillsides are yellow clumps of yellow crocus-like sternbergia nudge aside the plastic bags, and other unsightly detritus of modern village life.

The real flower time, of course, is spring. The fields are full of anemones and the roadsides thick with irises and



Heavenly Helleness: Judas tree (left) and Sternbergia lutea

grape hyacinths. Gladioli and tulips grow in the young corn, followed by sheets of crimson poppies. The white almond blossom is out and the gawdy mauve-pink flowers of the Judas tree, said to be its bluish of shame at having served Judas Iscariot for a gibbon.

If you should happen to make an Easter visit to Delphi, go down to Galaxidi on the coast below the ancient site. It is a beautiful village, one of the few to have escaped the disfiguring blight of concrete and flat roofs. Stroll along the shore. On a bright spring day the view is breathtaking. You look back across the blue waters of the bay to where Delphi lies under the red cliffs of the Phaeiades.

Above it, the snowy peaks of Mount Parnassos are dazzling white against the azure sky.

The sun warms the skin, but the air is still cool enough to leave a pleasant tang of freshness in the nostrils. The hillsides are yellow with broom and Jerusalem Sage. Everywhere are stately ranks of white asphodel, the flower Edward Lear irreverently calls "asphodels" in the notes he



Heavenly Helleness: Judas tree (left) and Sternbergia lutea

scrawled in the corners of his sketches.

All these are flowers you cannot fail to notice. But if you once bend down and search deliberately among the low scrubby bushes that cover so much of lowland Greece, all sorts of other beauties are revealed. Most extraordinary and delicate are the numerous orchids, in particular the bizarre-looking ophrys, whose names testify to their curious shapes and intricacy of design: sawfly, woodcock, horsehoe, mirror-of-Venus... and that last one is a beauty: the lower part of the flower is a lip of pure blue enamel, held out to reflect the sun, the very thing for the Queen of Love to preen in.

But the Elysian Fields for flower-hunters in Greece must surely be the mountains, where spring comes only in May or June after the winter snow has begun to melt. There you find acres of crocuses, yellow, lilac and magenta violets, hellebores, gentians, orchids, low-growing crimson geraniums and clumps of blue campanulas trailing their frail trumpet-shaped flowers from tiny rock crevices.

The mountains offer other pleasures too. The gullies are bright with icy streams from the melting snow. Butterflies bask in patches of sunlight filtering through to the forest floor. Fritillaries settle wherever there are stands of thistle, and high above the treetops you find the spectacular Apollo butterfly, whose wide white wings are veined with black and ringed with great red discs.

The most convenient field guide to the Greek flowers is Huxley and Taylor's *Flowers of Greece and the Aegean* (Chatto & Windus, £5.95). The most useful information about flower-hunting locations is contained in Oleg Polunin's *Flowers of Greece and the Balkans* (Oxford University Press, £40). The Gouladris Natural History Museum in Kifissia, Athens, is also well worth a visit. Flora and fauna are the subjects of the last book, *Wild Flowers of Mount Olympus*, by Anne Sird, has superb colour photographs of so many species that it could almost serve as a guide to the entire Greek flora.

Tim Salmon

The New Incas

The New Incas, a limited-edition photographic album, is published by The New Pyramid Press. Not Pyramid Press as stated last week.

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TRAVEL/2

John Ardagh gets his tongue round the linguistic and gastronomic specialities of the Basques

Three 'txeers' for those reactionary fish dishes

My gastronomic tour of the Basque country began in the Pyrenees with a rich wine stew of wood-pigeon. More precisely it began with catching these pretty *palombes*, a sport that could well turn a bird-lover into a vegetarian. It was early autumn when we made our way to a Spanish pub on a frontier path in the hills south of St-Jean-de-Luz, here French and Spanish Basques had gathered with shotguns for their annual pastime of pigeon-trapping.

The birds were migrating from the Baltic to North Africa, and the hunters had strung big nets from tree to tree across the steep valley to trap them as they flew over the pass. To scare them into the nets, they beat drums, blew bugles, and buried white discs which some birds mistook for prey. Then they finished them off with their guns or by twisting or biting their necks. "It's disgusting," said one very modern Basque girl, "but these birds are no fools. They're getting wise to the danger, and they fly higher to avoid the trap."

Conservation's pain would be gastronomy's loss: a black and pungent *salmis de palombe* is one of the most delicious and popular Basque specialities. In the French Basque country, other local dishes to go for are *navarro*, a fish stew in white wine, and *pipirade*, a kind of ratatouille with scrambled eggs.

However, Basque cuisine is more varied and subtle in the Spanish provinces. San Sebastian must be one of the most food-minded cities in Europe: it has nearly 100 "gastronomic clubs" where men (without their wives) go to cook and eat their favourite dishes, while the enclosed, secretive restaurants of the old quarters under Monte Urgull are always full of big families devouring enormous meals with an even greater intensity and devotion than in France.

The accent is on fish, including some bizarre delicacies. I was disappointed by the ubiquitous *crab-shell*, stuffed with its own mixed meat, baked with rum and cognac, but I enjoyed the *kokotxas* which, is improbable though it may sound, poached thyroid gland of hake.

Those Basque *as* and *as!* This strange language has been elevated to official status now that the Basque provinces have some autonomy and are formally bilingual, like Canada. Hispanised words are being rebaptised, the "ch" turned into "tx", which is similarly pronounced. It can produce odd results such as "lamb txop" or "txacoli", both regularly featured on tourist menus printed in English.

A worse hazard for the visitor is the recent much-trumpeted appearance of *la nueva cocina vasca*, a Basque imitation of the French *nouvelle cuisine*. Spicy Spanish dishes are now being cooked more blandly and served in small portions at fancy prices.

In France, *nouvelle cuisine* is at least an intelligent variation on *haute cuisine*, and can work well; but Spain has virtually no such tradition, and robust Spanish cooking does not lend itself to the *nouvelle* treatment. Fortunately, there are now signs of consumer resistance.

From the Basque country we travelled west to Cantabria, around Santander, which also has its *nueva cocina*. At one



Global significance: San Sebastian, a great food centre

very modish rural restaurant in a millhouse were given tuna, mussels, and a completely tasteless mousseline with celery sorbet between courses. "My aim," said the ambitious owner, "is to change Spaniards' eating habits, to make them less coarse, more intellectual. I invent my own dishes and accept no chef who has previously worked elsewhere." The results spoke for themselves.

From this high-minded purist and others of his kind I learnt that in Spain today cooking is politics. Many of the new wave of chefs are left-of-centre liberals, for whom this *nueva cocina* is a political gesture, an assertion of the new democratic Spain against the Falangist past represented by traditional cuisine.

Clams, prawns and a two-headed sardine. At the risk of appearing Falangist, you are well advised to stick to classic dishes. Especially fish. At the several excellent fish restaurants in Santander we enjoyed wild prawns with clams and garlic, unusually succulent tiny prawns which locals claim are unique to Santander and found only at the equinox; and *perchete*, raw clay-shaped goose-barnacles which are scraped off the rocks at low tide.

Partly because meat in Spain tends to be tough and scrappy, the Spanish eat more fish than any other Europeans, and in greater variety. Hence the indignation of the north-coast fishermen at their virtual exclusion from EEC waters. The Spanish are obsessed by fish. At the marine museum in Santander we were proudly shown a two-headed sardine found in 1913.

From the museum we walked to the charming, pine-covered peninsula of La Magdalena, where the Victorian Gothic hilltop palace built for the

young Alfonso XIII now houses an international university. La Magdalena, now a civic park, is full of surprises not least the notices warning that "police dogs roam after 10 pm" - the place is much used by local couples enjoying the new Spanish permissiveness. This has no connexion with the *Dia de Lecheria* that we found in progress in the park. It was a dairy show, a reminder that Cantabrians, whatever the megacres of their beef, have a passion for other products of the cow. They must be among Europe's leading milk drinkers. One common dessert on menus is *leche frita*, "fried milk" may not sound appetizing, but this caramelized custard is, in fact, delicious.

There was more milk at Santillana-del-Mar, the famous medieval village near Santander where seigneurial mansions line cobbled, traffic-free streets. It has been carefully preserved - somewhat in aspic, perhaps, yet retaining a more potent feeling of the past than do most showpieces.

We had read of "little stalls selling the local speciality, a glass of milk and a kind of biscuit", so we went in search of this enticing gastronomy. And facing the splendid Romanesque church was a booth serving warm milk with sponge cake for 35 pesetas. Villagers were queuing for it. I was told that this is a recent revival of a medieval custom, when pilgrims halting at the church on their way to Santiago were offered this sustenance. The Basques, no doubt, would have turned it into tresse.

Brittany Ferries runs a car ferry from Plymouth to Santander, twice a week each way throughout the year; the cost of a single journey for a carload is from £48 to £120, depending on size of car and time of year. Details from Brittany Ferries, 2 Endell Street, London WC2. (01-836 5885).

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Why the new wave is hot stuff

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Bla

REVIEW Classical records

Lieder of the old order

Brahmsian certainties in an upsidedown world

Schumann and Brahms: Lieder on Record 1901-52. Many artists. EMI RLS 154 7003 (eight records), Shostakovich and Kabalevsky: Cello "uncertainties" Yo Ma/Philadelphia/Ormandy. CBS D 57840. Mahler: Symphony No 7 Concertgebouw/Haitink. Philips 410 398-1. Airs d'opéra français: Herdicks/Monte-Carlo Orchestra/Tate. Philips 410 446 1.

From Fritz Schröder's beguilingly direct "Nussbaum" of 1902 to Victoria de los Angeles's kittenish 1951 version of the same, many illuminating revelations lie in store on EMI's new archive collection. Following on from their 1982 Schubert box, EMI and Keith Hardwick have come up with 130 Brahms and Schumann songs, 77 vintage singers, and much previously unpublished material, all of which is excellently transferred and remastered. The collection includes delights such as Arthur Schnabel accompanying his wife Thérèse in Schumann; Julia Culpe's complete and fearless 1909 *Freudenlied*; Chaliapin's "Two Grenadiers" (in Russian, with orchestra); and Schmitt-Walter's wonderfully individual "Widmung". Elena Gerhardt is incomparable in Brahms, John McCormack and Richard Tauber bring to him a distinctly period flavour, and Lotte Schöne, a great Mozartian in her day, sings an exquisite "Wie Melodien".

Another, lesser rarity comes from Yo Ma, who puts Kabalevsky's First Cello Concerto back into the catalogue



Richard Tauber: Period flavour with a performance urgently alive to the impulsive, fluent invention of this work dedicated in 1948 to Soviet youth. The record's *raison d'être*, however, is an outstanding performance of Shostakovich's First Cello Concerto, which comes very close to the reading of its dedicatee, Rostropovich, in unremitting intensity, although the latter's approach to the slow movement is more lyrical, less uneasily uncompromising. If Haitink has not been in the very forefront of the public mind as a conductor of Mahler, his new recording of the Seventh Symphony shows exactly what he is made of in this capacity. A bright, physically immediate recording highlights some exceptionally distinctive wind and brass playing, moulding and defining character here, challenging our perception of sound itself there. But most valuable of all is Haitink's ability to hold back in the first movement, to give space for silence and the passage of time; and his subtle touches of pacing in the finale ensure a resonant calm in the eyes of its maestro of high spirits. Barbara Hendricks's selection of French operatic arias provides a little potted history of nineteenth-century French opera, from Berlioz's *Teresa in Benvenuto Cellini* to Charles Lohie's *Louise*. While there is no one outstanding interpretation here, the character in Hendricks's voice keeps fresh a pot-pourri which is further enlivened by the instinctive support and detail of Jeffery Tate's conducting.

Hilary Finch

Discovering Zemlinsky has been one of the most popular musical hobbies of the last decade: for a composer who died in virtual oblivion during the Second World War, he has been doing rather well. All his operas have been revived in Germany; two of them were brought to the Hamburg company to Edinburgh last year, where there was also a chance to hear several other works. Now fine performances of the four quartets have been recorded by the LaSalle, whose experience in the Viennese music of this period is unrivalled. The quartets cover almost the whole of Zemlinsky's composing life (the first was written in 1896, the last in 1936), and although other pieces bear witness to some severe zig-zags of style, there is a certain companionship among these four, possible because Zemlinsky wrote them as entries in a personal diary. Even the first has distinctive features in the melodies that trail on luxuriantly, or in the paradoxical formal clarity, or in the ironic friction of quite different kinds of musical expression fitted into the same movement.

But the presiding genius are those of Brahms and Dvořák, very much as in the D major quartet that Schoenberg wrote in 1897 under Zemlinsky's guidance. In the later quartets Zemlinsky becomes more himself, or rather he takes on that

Zemlinsky: String Quartets LaSalle, Deutsche Grammophon 2741 016 (three records) Schoenberg: Choral works Netherlands Chamber Choir/de Leeuw, Philips 411 088-1 (two records) Fernyough: String Quartet No 2; Harvey: String Quartet No 2; Carter: String Quartet No 3 Arditi, RCA RS 9008 Xenakis: String works Arditi, RCA RS 9009

character which seems most fascinating in his music: that of one searching for the Brahmsian certainties in a musical world that his friend Schoenberg had so rapidly turned upside down. The Second Quartet (1913-14) emulates Schoenberg's First in telescoping the four movements, if in a less aggressively thorough manner. It is this tension between the charm of the old and the challenge of the new that is responsible for its Mahlerian irony. It is also a work of extreme emotion and musical contrast, working its basic motif all the way from Richard Strauss to Stravinsky. The LaSalle's recording of it has already been available for some years (on Deutsche Grammophon 2530 982).

Those who bought that disc may feel it to be unreasonable that they should now have to acquire a second copy, but I

doubt they will delay long. The Third and Fourth Quartets are both more at ease with themselves, being again in short, separate movements and occasionally breathing a radiant nostalgia that is positively Delian. However, the undercurrents of anxiety remain, especially but by no means solely in the post-Mahler burlesques that both works contain. There is more Zemlinsky - a nervously languorous setting of the Twenty-third Psalm - on the Netherlands Chamber Choir's double album, but here the emphasis is on Schoenberg, whose complete published choral works, excepting those with orchestra, are included. The collection is curiously representative. Two groups of folk-song arrangements show how readily Schoenberg identified himself with Brahms, identifying himself with Bach, while the original works include one of the masterpieces of tonality under siege (*Friede auf Erden*) as well as three musically and morally important sets of early serial pieces and two late prayers.

The trouble is that choral sounds which can be exciting in the concert hall - searing harmonies and scorching vocal lines - are devilishly hard to record and reproduce without distortion, and there are several places on these discs where the effect is of souls in



Alexander Zemlinsky: Undergoing enthusiastic rediscovery

some electronic agony. Happily, the problems are much less acute in the Six Pieces for male chorus, which is also the best of these works. Other appetites, for the abstruse and for the red hot and raw, are excellently served by two records from the highly talented Arditi Quartet. One offers high-powered imaginings from Brian Fernyough and Elliott Carter, wisely separated

by a much more tranquil meditation on a melody from Jonathan Harvey. The other combines the computer-calculated splutters and slides of Xenakis's early *ST/4* with the rude assaults of such more recent and strongly shaped works as *Dikhuha* for violin and piano or *Ikhvor* for string trio.

Paul Griffiths

Power of lowered voices in a singular service

the Mass that can be attributed to a single composer, and arguments over its performance have raged for years. There are little phrases which look as if they could only be for instruments, but as Parrott shows they can perfectly well be sung. More controversial is likely to be his transposition of the work downwards so that it is sung by male voices alone, and by soloists at that. But I find the singing so good that clarity is rarely lost even when the textures become slightly muddy. And the coherence of the overall sound - polyphony alternating with plainchant, sung also by male voices - is very impressive. The plainchant, and chanting of the prayers (Parrott himself "plays" the celebrant with an impeccable French accent) is no mere extra, but an integral part of a carefully planned recording

Machaut: Messe de Notre Dame Taverner Consort and Choir/Andrew Parrott, EMI Reflexe ASD 1435761; cassette TC ASD 1435764 Purcell: Fantasias for viols London Baroque/Charles Medlam, EMI Reflexe ASD 1436311; cassette TC ASD 1436314 Renaissance Music in Naples Hesperion XX/Jordi Savall, EMI Reflexe ASD 1436291; cassette TC ASD 1436294 C. P. E. Bach: Six Harpsichord Concertos Bob van Asperen (soloist and director)/Melanie '81, EMI Reflexe SLS 1434863 (two records); TC SLS 1434869 (one cassette)

which includes bells and sound effects. Purcell's extraordinary set of fantasias for viols, written in 1680, represents a late flowering

of this English form into which the 21-year-old composer poured all his imitative skill and emotional maturity. The complete set of 15 pieces can make daunting listening, but on this new recording London Baroque play them with such lightness and eloquence that one wishes the sequence could go on for ever. The plangent, reedy sound is accentuated by the use of "modern" violins in place of treble viols on the top two lines - it surprised me to learn that this, judging from the clefs he used, was probably what Purcell intended.

The most striking of the foreign ensembles is Hesperion XX, whose record of Renaissance music from Naples is distinguished by soprano Montserrat Figueras's gloriously idiosyncratic singing: direct, occasionally hoarse, but infinitely expressive; and by the

refreshingly crisp sound of the larger pieces which Jordi Savall directs. We are taken from the late-fifteenth-century court of Alfonso I and Ferdinand I to the early-sixteenth-century court of Charles V.

Bob van Asperen, a pupil of Gustav Leonhardt, has made some splendidly responsive recordings of the curious solo keyboard music of C. P. E. Bach. Some of his later music requires the fortepiano rather than the harpsichord, but there is no doubt that the latter is the right instrument for the six concertos written in Hamburg in 1772. Asperen trips through their bouncy rhythms and quirky phrases with great aplomb, and the orchestra of period instruments which he has gathered together matches him in liveliness.

Nicholas Kenyon

Lyrical Mephistopheles makes up for lost time

Boito: Mefistofele Freni, Caballe, Pavarotti, Chiaurow, National Philharmonie/de Fabritiis, Decca D2700 3 (three records); K270K 32 (two cassettes) Verdi: Otello Plowright, Craig, Howlett, ENO Orchestra/Elder, EMI SLS 1436053 (two records); TC SLS 1436055 (two cassettes).

Decca's new *Mefistofele* has been a long time coming, several years in fact. The main reason for the delay was the ill health of the conductor, Oliviero de Fabritiis, who died before the set was issued. The contribution of de Fabritiis, who was insufficiently recognized outside his native Italy and inadequately represented in the record catalogue, is a powerful argument for buying this set. He is the most Italian of conductors in this most Italian of works - Boito's *Faust* opera is some way after Goethe. The mood is elegiac, lyrical and expansive, a worthy finale to Fabritiis's long association with opera. Pavarotti's *Faust* is inspired by the same lyrical vein, and an aria such as "Dai campi", shows him at his most refined, with *Faust* deep in pious reflection before Mephistopheles arrives to upset the tenor of his life. Chiaurow is Old Nick, a part he is well acquainted with; this Mephisto has plenty of weight but is short



Light and dark: Rosalind Plowright, Charles Craig in Otello

on the sophistication vital to the role. Mirella Freni's Margherita is a performance which satisfies all round, from the girlish tones of the garden scene to the half-mad misery of "L'altra notte". And there is the bonus of the last Margherita on record (for EMI), Montserrat Caballe, in the small part of Helen of Troy. In sum, a set well worth the wait. It was, of course, Boito who provided the libretto for Verdi's *Otello*, and it can be heard very clearly in EMI's recording of live performances at the Coliseum, EMI, relatively new in taking opera direct from the theatre, has yet to decide on

Craig's Otello comes over somewhat gruff outside the theatre, with the impression that sometimes the voice has to be hoisted up like a mighty weight. But there is Neil Howlett's incisive lingo and consistently eloquent and refined conducting from Mark Elder. The economy-minded should note that EMI, with not too much loss of sound quality, has put this *Otello* on to two records instead of three.

Compact Disc Opera on CD is really beginning to come on stream. EMI makes its first foray this month with *Zauberflöte* highlights, a little too closely packed together, but there are the pluses of an almost 100 per cent German-speaking cast, led by Jerusalem's Tamino, and the splendidly responsive conducting of Haitink and the Bavarian Radio Orchestra (CDX 74708 2). Complete operas, both treatments of the *Figaro* story by Rossini and Mozart, come from Philips and Decca. Philips's *Il barbiere* arrives even fresher on CD than it did on black disc, with Araziza and Baltsa matching each other well and Thomas Allen full of charm in the title role (411 058 2). Allen is there again (as the Count) in Decca's *Figaro* (410 150 - 2), which in Solti's high-tension performance is one of the best CD transfers yet.

John Higgins

Eating Out

Bleak outlook for early birds in search of bonhomie

As the cold snap continues, the importance of an early-morning meal increases. For those with the time, and in some cases the money, to breakfast out, we investigate four varied venues

A favourite memory of my one and only visit to New York is of several spectacular breakfasts on Broadway, which offered coffee, fruit juice and a "Morning how are ya?" before bottom had even touched bar-nook. Unfortunately, the New York "event" does not seem to have registered in London, with few restaurants outside the "greasy spoons" or the larger hotels making any serious effort. The elegant Brasserie St Quentin, is one that deserves a mention, even though breakfast is served there only at weekends and is limited to *café complet* - a cup of flavoured coffee accompanied by basket of fresh croissants and crisp French bread with butter and miniature jars of Tiptree preserves for £2.50 per person.

Despite these restrictions, the glittering, mirrored brasserie, with its brass-topped bar and bow-tied, waistcoated waiters does impart a sense of occasion, although the dominant mood is of Parisian introspection rather than Manhattan bonhomie.

An American atmosphere is also singularly absent from the Tudor Grill at the Hilton International Kensington. A gloomy interior of heraldic shields and wooden beams is dominated by a self-service console offering a continental breakfast (rolls, pastries, cereals, fruit juices, £3.50) or a traditional English one (eggs, bacon, sausages, mushrooms, £4.75) to sad-eyed travellers who all seem to be on their way to Heathrow.

All this tends to dampen early-morning spirits which are likely to be subsequently extinguished by the workings of an infernal toasting machine that steadfastly refuses to deposit your chosen slice on to the waiting tray. The breakfast at the Hotel Inter-Continental's Coffee House is altogether a more convivial experience, incorpo-



Mary Evans Picture Library

ating brisk but self-effacing service and a comprehensive à la carte menu with an American flavour. A number of fixed-price menus are offered (from £4.40 to £6.80) including selections from the cold buffet of fruits, cereals, pastries, cold meats and cheeses, augmented by such favourite hot dishes as porridge, kedgeree, kippers or waffles with maple syrup. Only the bright, airport-lounge-style decor and the

The Connaught's menu is a confident assertion of the English country-house breakfast, ranging over immaculate porridge (£1), scrambled eggs, Finnan haddock, fruit compote, kedgeree (£3.50) and grills of steaks, liver or even Dover sole. Pous of high-quality tea and coffee lubricate the proceedings. A continental breakfast is offered at £4.50, but eating à la carte works out rather more (say £9 a head before 15 per cent service). Even so, it is hard to begrudge the prices for such a stylish, nourishing start to the day.

Stan Hey

Brasserie St Quentin, 243 Brompton Road, London SW3 (589 8005). Sat and Sun, 10-11.30am. Hilton International Kensington, 178-198 Holland Park Avenue, London W11 (503 3355). Daily, 7-11am. Hotel Inter-Continental, The Coffee House, 1 Hamilton Place, London W1 (409 3131). Daily, 7am-noon (buffet until 10.30am). The Connaught, Carlton Place, London W1 (488 7070). Daily, 7.30-10am. *Times given are for breakfasts only.

Drink

Virtue and value of the Rhône



I have yet to meet the French vigneron who does not compare his wine to a woman. The analogy usually goes something like this: "Mais oui, she is an awkward schoolgirl now, but in four years' time she will be beautiful." Quite the most enthusiastic exponent of the comparison must be Henri Brunier, from that splendid Châteaufort-du-Pape estate Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe; his passion for his wines overflows into a hymn to women. But as he makes one of the finest Châteaufort, I forgive him. And now it seems that wine merchants too are waking up to the virtues of Rhône reds, since good claret and burgundy have become so pricey. The numerous 1982 Rhône offers put out by several leading merchants are a sign that these undervalued wines are being treated very seriously.

The Rhône produces slightly more wine every year than Burgundy, although considerably less than Bordeaux and its vineyards are some of the oldest in France. Those steep hillside vineyards at Hermitage, for instance, were originally thought to have been planted with the syrah (or shiraz) grape from Persia by Greeks who journeyed up the Rhône valley from their trading post at Marseilles.

Lumping the northern and southern Rhône reds together is a mistake, for wines such as the northern Hermitage and southern Châteaufort-du-Pape really have little in common, being made from different grape varieties in different climates. Northern Rhône reds, despite the predominance of the syrah, seem more akin to burgundy, just as the southern Rhône reds have much of the spice and guts of the provençal reds.

The 1982 vintage is a good example of the Rhône's dual nationality; while many of the southern reds were a disappointment, the north has produced some real stunners. Max Cuapoutier, the fifth generation of his family to head Maison Cuapoutier, went so far as to describe the northern 1982 wines as "the best I have ever known".

If the thought of buying a northern 1982 Rhône *en primeur* appeals, get in touch with Les Amis du Vin, who are selling a trio of Paul Jaboulet Aîné's 1982 wines including the revered Hermitage La Chapelle (£68.40 a case for mem-

bers only, from 7 Ariel Way, Wood Lane, London W12; VAT, duty and shipping charges to be added).

Master of Wine Richard Harvey is also selling Jaboulet's 1982 Hermitage La Chapelle at £93 a case inclusive or £7.95 a bottle - and if you can only afford to lay down one majestic Rhône from such a magnificent year, this should be it. (Richard Harvey Wines, The Auction House, East Street, Wimborne Minster, Dorset.)

The other great Hermitage name is Jean-Louis Chave, and although I have not tasted his 1982 (£7.75), M. Chave's tireless pursuit of big rich and brawny wines, especially as 1980 was by no means a great Rhône vintage, (Robin Yapp, The Old Brewery, Mers, Wiltshire).

After Hermitage, the Côte Rôtie, or "roasted hillside", just south of Vienne at the entrance to the Rhône valley, is the other syrah star in the northern Rhône's firmament. Recently I tasted Max Cuapoutier's 1980 Côte Rôtie, a rich warm spicy wine with a great deal of class and style and nowhere near as hefty as some of these wines are. (Robin Yapp £8.60.)

The most famous Côte Rôtie name, and deservedly so, is Etienne Guigal, and Adnams carry the very fine 1978 "La Landonne" Côte Rôtie from the Côte Brue - a wonderful wine from a superb year that needs at least another decade in the cellar. (Adnams, Sole Bay Brewery, Southwold, Suffolk, £13.34.)

Leaving the Rhône without mentioning a wine from the south would not be fair, and although poor old Châteaufort-du-Pape has almost become the Nuits-St-Georges of the Rhône, wines such as M Brunier's 1980 Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe (Adnams £5.29), with its big purple colour and lovely, spicy, perfumed syrah taste, proves that good Châteaufort are still being made.

Jane MacQuitty

Burton Anderson's Italian Selection Part 2

FOUNDED BY THE SUNDAY TIMES IN 1973

The Wine Club's Italy

A chance to try The Wine Club's highly successful region-by-region survey of the best of Italian wine. Burton Anderson, the top Italian Wine writer was asked to choose 12 regional selections. These come complete with Mr Anderson's tasting notes and background details. His brief: to choose The Best wines Italy currently has on offer, irrespective of price.

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Castel del Monte Rosso DOC Riviera 1981

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5 Friuli

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Pinot Grigio Collio DOC Conti Formenini Estate 1982 (one bottle)

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Reds

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Refosco Colli Orientali del Friuli DOC Ronchi di Formaz Estate 1981

6 Tuscany

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PREVIEW Theatre

Love and marriage and the old unliberated male

Tom and Mary have been married for 20 years, and their daughter is about to leave home. Mary takes a job which she enjoys, and as her way of life changes, so does her relationship with Tom. Tom has difficulty coming to terms with the new situation, and suffers a nervous breakdown and back.

That is the story line explored in Ted Whitehead's play *The Man Who Fell in Love with his Wife*, which opens at the Lyric Studio theatre on Monday.

"The play is about the problems we have in reconciling the new ideas of liberation and independence with the old ones of love and marriage," Whitehead explains. When Tom's wife gets a job, seeking her fulfillment, he discovers his dependence on her, something he had never suspected. He needs a commitment and has sympathy with the ideals of liberation in the 1960s and 1970s.

"This is a fresh look at that period of liberation, but it is ambivalent as well as being a critique of romantic love," says Whitehead.

In the play, directed by Peter Jupp, Tom tries to recapture the intensity of early love, of a kind which is romantic love, by playing a selection of "golden oldie" records - songs by Nat King Cole, the Platters and the Billie Holiday - which could result in the theatre being swamped in nostalgia.

The Man Who Fell in Love with his Wife began life as a BBC television play called *Sweet Nothings*. It was transmitted in 1980 and starred Tom Bell and Lynn Farieligh, who now return to play the leads in the stage version. Whitehead has had to change and rewrite it extensively to enable it to make the transition from screen to stage.

The cast has shrunk from about 50 to just four which gives Whitehead the chance to concentrate more on the play's theme, and the scenes which were filmed in Liverpool's dockland area for television are now exchanged for two sets, designed by Poppy Mitchell.

Ted Whitehead was born in Liverpool, educated at Christ's College, Cambridge, and had a variety of jobs including labouring, selling, teaching and advertising before becoming a full-time writer in 1971. He spent some time as writer-in-residence at the Royal Court Theatre. His other plays include

The Foursome, *The Sea Anchor* and *Alpha Beta*. The last gave him his greatest commercial success when it was staged in 1972, starring Albert Finney and Rachel Roberts; it was later made into a film.

More recently he has worked on an adaptation of Strindberg's *The Dance of Death*, which opened at the Oxford Playhouse on February 1, and he is now completing a play called *A Conversation with the Blade*, taken from a fencing term, for H. M. Tennant; it is expected to be staged later this year.

Tom Bell has divided his time between the theatre, including *Travesties* for the Royal Shakespeare Company, films such as *The L-Shaped Room* and *Royal Flash*, and television, where he recently appeared in *Relly Acc of Spies*. Lynn Farieligh has acted with the RSC and the National Theatre and her many television appearances include *Sex and Kinship*, again with Tom Bell.

Christopher Warman

The Man Who Fell in Love with his Wife previews at the Lyric Studio (741 2311) today at 8pm, and opens Mon at 7pm. Then Mon-Sat at 8pm until Mar 24.

Out of Town

BELFAST: Lyric Players (0232 660081). *Cider with Rosie* by Laurie Lee. Until Mar 10, Mon-Sat 8pm. Pleading account of growing up in a farming community.

BIRMINGHAM: Repertory Theatre. (021 238 4455). One for the Road by Willy Russell. Preview today at 7.30pm. Opens Mon at 7.30pm. Until Mar 31, Mon-Fri at 7.30pm; Sat at 8pm; matinees Thurs at 2.30pm, Sat at 4pm.

Willy Russell has revised and adapted his comedy and set it in Birmingham: housing estates, vandalism and growing into middle class. **BRIGHTON:** Theatre Royal (0273 28488). *Look, No Hand* by John Chapman and Michael Portner. Opens Mon at 7.45pm. Until Mar 3, Mon-Thurs at 7.45pm, Fri at 8.15pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.15pm; matinee Thurs at 2.30pm.

BRISTOL: New Vic (0272 24388). *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen. Until Mar 10, Mon-Wed (not Mar 5) at 7.15pm, Thurs-Sat at 7.45pm. New production of an Ibsen play regarded by his contemporaries as subversive and still powerfully persuasive on the theme of



Love at second sight: Lynn Farieligh and Tom Bell in Ted Whitehead's play

personal fulfillment and determination.

CAMBRIDGE: Arts (0223 352000). *Relative Strangers* by Trevor Cowper. Final performances today at 4.30pm and 8pm.

LEEDS: Playhouse (0532 442111). *Marriage by Choice* by Caryl Churchill. Mon and Tues at 8pm.

LEICESTER: Haymarket Studio (0533 539797). *The Great Celestial Cow* by Sue Townsend. Until Mar 3, Mon-Thurs at 7.45pm; Fri and Sat at 8.15pm.

MANCHESTER: Library (061 236 7110). *Working Class Hero* by Bob Wilson. Until Mar 17, Tues-Sat at 7.30pm.

MANCHESTER: Northern premiere production of a play centred on the St Peter's Fields massacre of 1819, when a crowd of 60,000 unarmed men and women were forcibly dispersed by the yeoman cavalry. Howard Lloyd-Lea directs a cast including Tracie Bennett, Michael Barrett, Keith Clifford, Cynthia Granville.

MOLD: Theatre Chyd (0352 55114). *Faust (Part One)* by Goethe. Until Mar 10, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm.

NEWMARKET: Theatre Royal (0632 322061). *Season. Twelfth Night*. Final performances today at 2pm and 7.15pm.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE: Theatre Royal (0632 322061). *Season. Twelfth Night*. Final performances today at 2pm and 7.15pm.

OLDHAM: Coliseum (061 624 2829). *Mary Hepton's Heaven* by Glyn Hughes. Until Mar 3, Tues-Sat at 7.30pm.

PETERBOROUGH: Key (0733 52439). *Jesus Christ Superstar* by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. Until Mar 3, Wed-Thurs at 8pm and 8.30pm; matinees Wed and Thurs at 2.30pm.

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Critics' choice

MASTER CLASS Old Vic (928 7617). Final performances today at 4pm and 7.45pm. Transfers to Wyndham's Theatre (836 3028) from Tues, for a six-week season, Mon-Fri at 7.45pm, Sat at 8pm and 8.30pm; matinees Wed at 3pm. Stalin's 1948 pressure session with composer Prokofiev and Shostakovich gives David Pownall the setting for an alarming yet sometimes horribly funny drama, full of food for thought on art and politics and the relation between them. Timothy West's fearsome Stalin is a complex study on the grand scale.

MAYDAYS Barbican (828 8795/8891). Today at 2pm and 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm. In repertory with *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmund Rostand (Fri at 7.30pm). Stretching from 1945 to the present, David Edgar's vast chronicle play probes the British Left's loss of direction and watches two characters changing political colour from red to blue. Long, often difficult and verbose, but with a non-fictional quality of socialist theory; but ambitious, complex and dramatically challenging at its best. With Antony Sher, John Sharp and Bob Peck.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING Barbican (828 8795/8891). Tues-Thurs at 7.30pm; matinees Thurs at 2pm. In repertory with *Maydays* and *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmund Rostand (Fri at 7.30pm). Absolutely not to be missed, Terry Hand's production is a sheer delight and the outstanding success of the Royal Shakespeare Company's current Barbican.

season. Derek Jacobi and Sinead Cusack make a Benedick and Beatrice of exceptional wit, intelligence and charm.

NOISES OFF Savoy (836 8888). Mon-Fri at 7.45pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.30pm; matinees Wed at 3pm. After two years in London, Michael Frayn's farce of backstage mishaps and misbehaviour during a ghastly rep-festival comedy is still wildly funny. Amanda Barrie excels as the veteran character comedy and several newcomers make a bright showing in a production that gets slicker with each change of cast.

PACK OF LIES Lyric (437 3585). Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.15pm; matinees Wed at 3pm. Hugh Whitemore's powerful study of a decent couple whose quiet suburban life is destroyed by a Kroppel for a case. Julia Dancs and Michael Williams find impressively tragic performances in the most humdrum surroundings.

RENTS Lyric, Hammersmith (741 2311). Until Mar 10, Mon-Sat at 7.45pm; matinees Thurs at 2.30pm. First at 4pm. Hammersmith two years ago, Michael Wilcox's play (now directed by William Gaskill) looks at part-time rent boys in Edinburgh and their friends, and friendship for a play full of understanding, charm and raw wit.

THE RIVALS Olivier (928 2252). Tues at 7.15pm, Wed at 2pm and 7.15pm. In repertory with *Seberg* by Marvin Hamlisch, *Christopher Adler*, Julian Barry (today at 2pm and 7.15pm, Mon-Fri at 7.15pm) and *Tales from Hollywood* by Christopher Hampton (Tues and Fri at 7.15pm). Peter Wood's sparkling revival of Sheridan has Geraldine McEwan as a young but hilariously affected Mrs Malaprop and Sir Michael Hordern gaily and inescapably as Sir Anthony Absolute.

YOU CAN'T TAKE WITH YOU Lyric (437 3585). Fri at 4.45pm. In repertory with *Master Harold... and the Boys* by Athol Fugard (today at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, Mon-Thurs at 7.30pm). Once again the National strikes gold in America, this time with *Master Harold... and the Boys* 1936 comedy about a family of happy eccentrics. Jimmy Jewel as the genial, drop-out daddy, Geraldine McEwan as dotty, authoress mother, Gaye Brown as alcoholic sister and Margaret Courtenay as a Russian grandee, turned waitress combine in a gloriously funny, subversive hymn to independence.



Holding on: Ruth May in Relative Strangers (Cambridge)

PREVIEW Galleries

Photography

EXPERIMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHY The Photogallery, Shepherd Street, St Leonards, East Sussex (0424 440140). Until Mar 17, Wed-Sat 11am-6pm. Photographs from odd viewpoints, montage, abstract rayograms - old hat now, but innovative in the period covered by this exhibition, the 1920s, when photography came to be considered as the proper creative instrument of the new age. Work by Man Ray, Moholy-Nagy, Alexander Rodchenko and many others.

EUGENE ATGET: PHOTOGRAPHS OF OLD FRANCE Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (402 6075). Until Mar 25, daily 10am-5.30pm. Eugene Atget, who died in 1927, saw much of his work as merely reference from which painters could make art. His subject was often Paris, or as here, the Ile-de-France. He pointed his camera at whatever interested him and saw what he wanted to record with astonishing clarity. The legacy of his document is unsurpassed: quiet country lanes, sleepy villages, trees, vines crawling over ancient cottages, all taken at the turn of the century.

ANGUS McBEAN National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (833 0880). Opens Mon, until Mar 24, Mon-Sat 11am-10pm. Retrospective show for the doyen of theatre photographers, who combined theatre work with portraiture, where he employed the language of the surreal. The images, though often bizarre, are always inventive and laced with visual puns and humour. McBean's work is a stage-managed and refined place which is always striving to extol the virtue of beauty. A visual treat which is not to be missed.

PHOTOGRAPHERS AGAINST SUFFERING Newcastle Media Workshops, Bell's Court, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle (0632 322410). Until Mar 3, Tues-Sat 10.30am-5pm. An exhibition of photographic prints which have been donated to

Oxfam by many well-known photographers. All prints will be auctioned on March 3 at 1pm and the proceeds will go to support health projects in Central America. An opportunity to acquire photographs by Cartier-Bresson, James Jarrold, Bert Har, Humphrey Spender and many others.

CHRIS WAINWRIGHT Stills Gallery, 58 High Street, Edinburgh (031 557 1140). In two parts until March 17, Tues-Sat 12.30-5pm. Part 1, until Mar 2, shows how Wainwright arrived at his large composite photographs with sketches, diagrams and contact sheets. Part 2 exhibits the finished works, views of St Andrews Cathedral and of the quarry from which the cathedral stone was excavated. An overtly didactic show with overtones of Joseph Wright of Derby, a source which is freely acknowledged.

KARSH OF OTTAWA National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (530 1552). Until Apr 8, Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm. Admission 50p, students and pensioners 25p. Seventy-fifth birthday show of portrait photographs by Yousof Karsh, whose professed aim has been to capture greatness through the camera. The rich and famous, Karsh's staple fare, are never allowed to present anything other than their public faces in contrived and formal elegance. It is a formula that makes one feel that Karsh has only ever taken one photograph; however, his popularity endures.

THE BRIDGE Impressions Gallery, 17 Collingdale, York (0904 54724). Until Mar 24, Tues-Sat 10am-6pm. New work by Victor Burgin, whose conceptual explorations continue to blur the distinction between art and photography. Here he takes as his starting point that moment in Hitchcock's *Vertigo* when Madeleine throws herself into San Francisco Bay. Burgin's relentless demands on the viewer make him one of the most difficult but sometimes most rewarding artists to come to terms with.



IMAGE OF THE WEEK: Portrait of his mother by Rodchenko, 1924 (see The Photogallery)

Critics' choice

of the 70 or so works are well-known Pre-Raphaelite paintings, including *Laithorn's The Music Lesson*, Holman Hunt's *The Eve of St Agnes* and Millais's *My First Sermon* and *My Second Sermon*. There is also a selection of photographs by Edward Curtis.

DEREK JARMAN ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (930 3647). Exhibition until March 18, Tues-Sun 12-5pm. Films and videos until tomorrow, Wed-Sun 8.30pm and 8.30pm. One of the most versatile of modern British artists, Derek Jarmen is a painter, theatre and film designer, writer and, most prominently of late, a filmmaker. The ICA's representation of his work takes in his recent paintings and a broader spread of his work in film, including his own features *Sebastiane*, *Jubilee* and *The Tempest*, and various 16mm shorts, as well as videos and films just designed by him.

SHERIFFS Main and terrace foyers, National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (828 2033). Until Mar 24, Mon-Sat 10am-11pm. Probably best remembered for his recent caricatures of film personalities in *Punch* between 1948 and his death in 1981, Robert Stewart Sheriffs first achieved fame in the 1920s when he illustrated a series of barbed impressions of current celebrities by Beverly Nichols in *The Sketch*. His crisp and economical line probably owed something to his early training as an heraldic artist, but his sense of character was all his own.

THE OMEGA WORKSHOPS Crafts Council Gallery, 12 Waterloo Place, Lower Regent Street, London SW1 (830 4811). Until Mar 18, Tues-Sat 10am-5pm. A semi-permanent display of painting and sculpture belonging to the Corporation of London is on show for the rest of the year. Many

Critics' choice

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Sun 2-5pm. Anthony D'O'Flynn, 9 and 23 Dering Street, London W1 (499 4695). Until Mar 5, Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm. Two matching shows commemorate the Bloomsbury Group's largest single contribution to the visual arts in Britain. The artist-decorators involved were led by Roger Fry and included Vanessa Bell, Vanessa Bell, Gaudie Brzecka and Wyndham Lewis. Their highly coloured products included furnishing and decoration of all kinds, some of it now quaintly modern.

TWENTIETH-CENTURY PORTRAITS National Portrait Gallery, London WC2 (930 1552). Until Mar 4, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm. The National Portrait Gallery's new display of famous people who have contributed to the character and development of the last 50 years. They include William Robert's double portrait of John Maynard Keynes and his wife Lydia Lopokova; Ben Nicholson's self-portrait with Barbara Hepworth; and Bryan Organ's portrait of the Prince of Wales.

LIGHT DIMENSIONS Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7 (839 3455). Until Mar 4, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2.30-6pm. Exhibition on the evolution of photography, the creation by laser of three-dimensional images which enables objects to float in space. It was invented 36 years ago by Denis Gabor but only now is its potential starting to be realized. As well as having important commercial and industrial application, it may be said to constitute a new art form.

Theatre: Irving Wardle and Anthony Maxey; Galleries: John Russell Taylor; Photography: Michael Young; Dancer: John Percival.

Dance

ROYAL BALLET Covent Garden (240 1066). Tues, Thurs, Fri at 7.30pm. MacMillan's new *Different Drummer* is repeated Tues, when Lesley Collier (back from an injury) is due to dance *Song of the Earth*. *Afternoon of a Faun* completes the bill. Jay Joley's first Colas should be the highlight of *La Fille mal gardée* (Thurs). Bryony Brind and Derek Deane head the cast of *Swan Lake* (Fri).

MANTIS The Place (387 0031). Tonight at 8pm. Woodstock Albany Empire (691 3333) Wed at 8pm. Roehampton Institute, SW15 (878 2242). Thurs at 7.30pm. This ambitious small company is giving new works by Michael Clark. Matthew Hawks and founder-director Micha Bergese.

BALLET RAMBERT Royal, Royal (0904 23568). Today at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Leicester, Haymarket (0533 539797). Tues to Mar 3 at 7.30pm. matinee Sat at 2.30pm. Christopher Bruce's new *Intimate Pages* is given tonight and Tues-Thurs; Robert North's new *Entre dos Aguas* also tonight and next Fri and Sat.

LONDON CONTEMPORARY Liverpool Empire (061 709 1555). Tonight at 7.30pm. Oxford, Apollo (0855 244544). Tues to Mar 3 at 7.30pm. *New Galileo*, is in the bit tonight and Thurs-Sat; Robert Cohan's *Common Land*, to Bach music, Tues and Wed. Oxford patrons have a special one-for-one offer of cut-price tickets for Extemporaneous Dance Theatre at the Playhouse, Mar 20-24.

SCOTTISH BALLET Special week in Edinburgh, Mon to Mar 4. Aiming for new audiences, Scottish Ballet present *Divertimenti* at Bedford Dance Centre, Douglas Gardens, Mon and Tues; a programme of new works by company members at the Little Lyceum, Wed and Thurs; Turkish *Delight* at the Traverse, Fri and Sat; and a gala tribute to Anton Dolin and John Gopin at the Royal Lyceum on Mar 4. All at 7.30pm.

KATHAK DANCE Shaw (388 7727). Tomorrow at 7.30pm. As part of a World Arts Season, a company of dancers and singers from northern India perform one night only in London. Their tour, lasting from today until Mar 8, also takes in Bristol, Birmingham, Manchester, Nottingham, Coventry, Darlington and Bradford.



Kathak on tour: Dancer from northern India

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PREVIEW Films

Heroes survive the silliness of the American circus

"Laurel and Hardy in space", snorted Senator John Glenn when shown an early draft script for *The Right Stuff*, a sumptuous, epic screen version of Tom Wolfe's best-selling novel about American space pioneers (Glenn included). Since becoming a front-line candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, Glenn's comments have been far more guarded ("No comment", for instance).

The film was launched in the United States last November, amid much ballyhoo (a gala premiere in Washington, constant coverage in the media), but the precise effect of John Glenn the movie astronaut on the public, the voter, remains difficult to determine. Judging by the senator's poor showing in the Iowa caucus this week, the film has hardly helped him.

At all events *The Right Stuff*'s mingling of politics, Hollywood and the media - "The American circus at work", as writer-director Philip Kaufman called it in the magazine *American Film* - is particularly topical as the familiar for the 1984 presidential elections gathers volume. But what exactly is the "right stuff" displayed by Glenn, Chuck Yeager, Alan Shepard, Gordon Cooper, Gus Grissom and the other pioneers? For Wolfe, it is that personal quality

that make a person accept huge risks as routine, that makes one act heroically without actually being a hero.

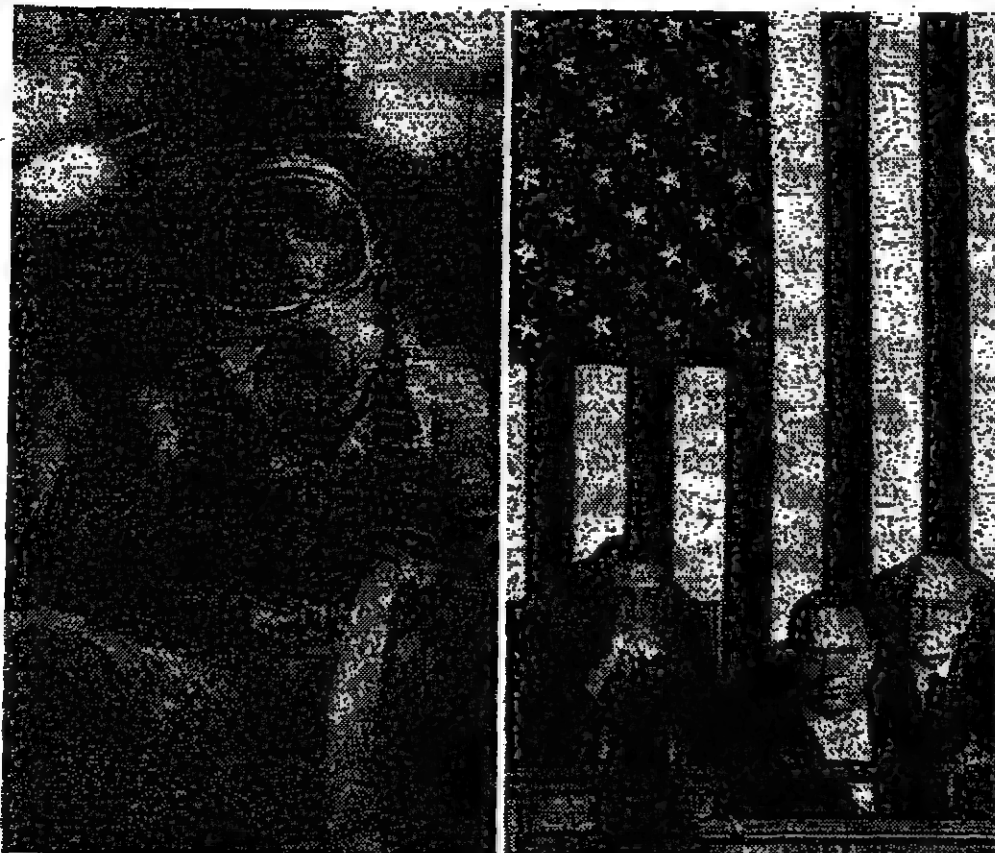
In Kaufman's words: "They were heroes in spite of the media circus that followed the panic of Sputnik. The need to fabricate a public image actually endangered their heroic quality."

American institutions, such as NASA, were nevertheless happy to cooperate with research material and stock footage. Kaufman's team piled up 500,000 feet of pre-existing film, and matched old images to new material with a dexterity recalling Woody Allen's comedy *Zelig*. Kaufman also used the services of the experimental film-maker Jordan Belson, who furnished background plates depicting star-strewn skies and endless, unfathomable space.

Chuck Yeager, who broke the sound barrier in 1947, served as technical adviser. He also pops up in a cameo role, proffering another kind of "right stuff" - he plays a barman.

Geoff Brown

The Right Stuff (cert PG) opens in London on Fri at the Warner West End (439 0731) and ABC Fulham Road (370 2836).



A star is borne: Ed Harris plays John Glenn (left and centre right) in *The Right Stuff*

Critics' choice

THE BIG CHILL (15)
Cinecitta Panton Street
(930 0631)
Classic Oxford Street
(536 6310)

Odeon Kensington (502 6644)
Warner West End (439 0731)
American writer-director Lawrence Kasdan's second feature after the acclaimed thriller *Body Heat*. Former students from the 1960s gather at a funeral and survey the effects of time. A comic collage of human behaviour, with Tom Berenger, Glenn Close, Jeff Goldblum, William Hurt.

CAN SHE BAKE A CHERRY PIE? (15)
Classic Tottenham Court Road
(636 6148)

A self-obsessed, divorced health addict meets a neurotic, abandoned wife on a Manhattan sidewalk; they enjoy a fraught romance. This could only be the work of director Henry Jaglom, the wayward American independent who struck comic gold with the low-budget, semi-improvised *Sitting Ducks*. A marvelous exploration of human relationships, true and tender, and radiantly droll.

FANNY AND ALEXANDER (15)
Classic Chelsea (351 3742)
Ingmar Bergman's amazing evocation of life, joys and terrors, staged with exceptional elegance, beauty and lightness of touch. Traditional Bergman themes are deftly woven into the mixed fortunes of a Swedish family living early in the century.

FIRST NAME CARMEN (16)
Camden Plaza (485 2443)
Jean-Luc Godard takes elements from the Carmen story and the American gangster film genre and intercuts them with rehearsals of Beethoven quartets. As usual with Godard, it is a many-layered piece, easier to describe than to interpret. It won the Golden Lion at Venice but the critics have been less enthusiastic.

THE HONORARY CONSUL (16)
Classic Haymarket (838 1527)
Classic Tottenham Court Road (636 6148)
Studio Oxford Circus (437 3300)
Adaptation of Graham Greene's novel with Michael Caine both comic and touching as the disreputable and bawdy character and Richard Gere as Dr. Plarr. Directed by John Mackenzie, with Bob Hoskins.

LIANNA (18)
Classic Chelsea (352 5096)
Cinecitta Panton Street (930 0631)
Screen on Baker Street (935 2772)
Screen on the Hill (435 3366)

A married woman drifts into a lesbian relationship with her night-school teacher - a situation presented by American writer-director John Sayles with tact, wit and clever use of modest resources. Marvellous lead performances from Linda Griffiths, Jane Hallaren and Jon DeVries. **REAR WINDOW** (PG)
Plaza Piccadilly Circus (437 1234)
One of Hitchcock's most audacious thrillers returns to public prominence after years in limbo. James Stewart stars as the photographer who locates a nasty murder in his telephone lens while running a broken leg. Made in 1954, with Grace Kelly, Wendell Corey, Thelma Ritter, Raymond Burr.

RUMBLE FISH (18)
Lumiere (836 0691)
Francis Coppola's latest film defies all categories: a black and white fantasy about youthful hopes and alienation, shot with determined poetic intent and meshed with a riveting rhythmic score by Stewart

Copeland (from the rock group The Police). Featured players Matt Dillon and Mickey Rourke effortlessly merge into the crazy fabric of shadows, scudding clouds and surreal positions. Based on a novel by S. E. Hinton.

STAR 80 (18)
ABC Fulham Road (370 2636)
Classic Haymarket (838 1527)
Gate Bloomsbury (837 1177)
Bob Fosse's biography of a doomed Playboy pin-up and starlet, Dorothy Stratten, falls too promptly into unadorned clichés, although the seamy side of show business is explored with relish. Eric Roberts (as the murderous husband) offers a striking portrait of unbridled mediocrity; Mariel Hemingway as the starlet copes well with a passive role.

STARSTRUCK (PG)
Gate Bloomsbury (837 1177/8402)
Cheerful, Australian, pink-tinted musical, bubbling with optimism, friendly characters and warm local atmosphere; a marked change of style for director Gillian Armstrong, best known for the pedigree charms of *My Brilliant Career*. Rose O'Donovan stars as the Sydney teenager determined to push his cousin (to Kennedy) into show business.

UNDER FIRE (15)
Leicester Square Theatre (830 5282)
Classic Chelsea (352 5096)
Odeon Kensington (502 6644)

Three journalists covering the Nicaraguan revolution in 1979 find their personal and professional allegiances pushed to breaking point. An old Hollywood plot rattles about in Roger Spottiswoode's thriller like old dried peas in a gleaming new pod. But the action is excitingly staged, and Spottiswoode finds good use for Nick Nolte's monolithic presence. Joanna Cassidy and Gene Hackman co-star.

VASSA (PG)
Academy 2, Oxford Street (437 5129)
Gleb Pantlov has considerably expanded Gorky's play about a matriarch who stops at nothing to preserve her family business. He moves the action to immediately before the First World War, makes the matriarch Vassa more acute and sophisticated and attempts a deeper analysis of the bourgeois class than Gorky did.

The information in this column was current at the time of going to press. Late changes are often made and it is advisable to check, using the telephone numbers given.

Sniffing behind the neon lights

Alexander Mackendrick, born in the United States but brought up in Glasgow, was one of several young directors who emerged at Ealing Studios during the great days under Sir Michael Balcon and he was arguably the most talented.

His films, which included *Whisky Galore*, *The Maggie*, *The Man in the White Suit* and *The Ladykillers*, were sharper and less comfortable than the run of Ealing comedies and displayed a more individual style. He was never content simply to amuse.

Compare the easy-going humour of *Passport to Pimlico* with *The Man in the White Suit*, which is a comedy format to raise profound questions about the survival of a textile firm and its workforce when someone invents a fabric that will not wear out.

Even *The Ladykillers*, though whimsical enough on the surface with its sweet old lady and Jack Warner's Dixon-like copper, has its darker side and is completely different in tone from the amiable capers of Alec Guinness and Stanley Holloway in *The Lavender Hill Mob*.

After making *The Ladykillers*, Mackendrick left Ealing for the United States where in 1957 he directed his finest film, *Sweet Smell of Success* (showing on BBC1, Friday, 10.50pm-12.30am). This was very far from being a comedy and some observers saw an abrupt change of direction: to do so, however, was to misread Mackendrick's Ealing work.

Sweet Smell of Success takes a scathing look at the corruption of power and reveals a sour underside of the American dream. More successfully than John Schlesinger in *Midnight Cowboy*, which looks contrived by comparison, Mackendrick brilliantly captures that grubby segment of New York that lies behind the neon lights.

With a crackling script by Clifford Odets and Ernest Lehmann (based on Lehmann's novel), the film is about a vicious gossip columnist, played by Burt Lancaster, who makes use of a toadying press agent (Tony Curtis) to break up his sister's romance with a jazz musician.

The methods are uncompromising, involving bribery, smear campaigns, the planting of false evidence and reliance on a corrupt detective. The purpose is nothing less than the

Films on TV

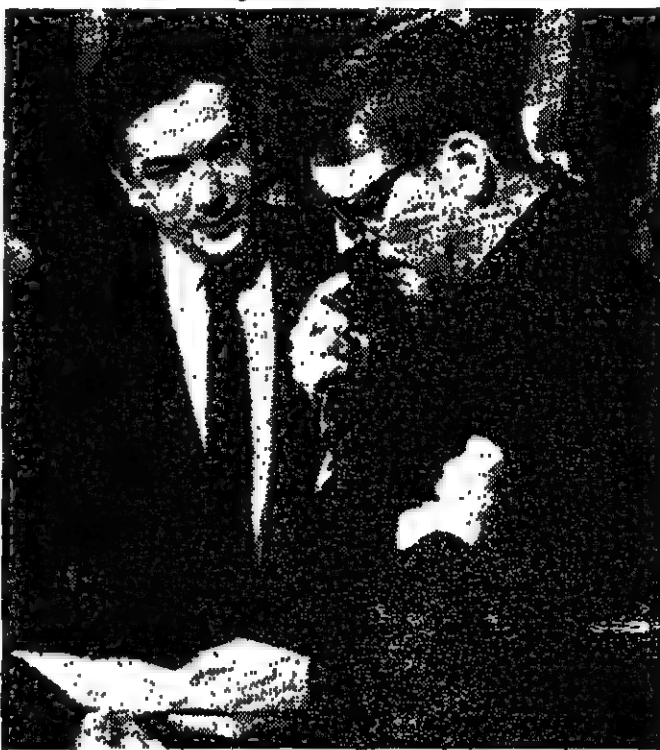
destruction of human lives in the most cynical manner. The title of the film is horribly ironic.

Always adept at handling actors, Mackendrick gets marvellous performances from his leading men. Lancaster has rarely been more effective, while for Curtis the film offered the first real opportunity for serious acting after years of being typecast as a muscular pin-up.

Sweet Smell of Success made little impact on either critics or the public when it was first released, but it now stands as one of the finest films made in, and about, America in the 1950s. Sadly, Mackendrick never approached its heights again.

A tough and uncompromising character who did not endear himself to the captains of the film industry, he managed to direct only three more films, spread over a period of 10 years, before taking up the post of dean of the film department at the California Institute of the Arts. His students' gain was the cinema's loss.

Peter Waymark



Smelling success: Mackendrick and Lancaster

PREVIEW Music

Concerts

83 HALLELUJAHS
Today, 7.30pm, Rosalyn Hill Chapel, Rosalyn Hill, London NW3 (340 8321)
Christopher Fox's 83 Hallelujahs receives its world premiere from Singcircle. They also give the London premiere of a new version of Harvey's *Come*, and perform Belk's *At this Point and Denis Smalley's Pneuma*.

HAYDN'S BIRD
Today, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (935 2141, credit cards 930 9232)
On "classical" instruments the Fitzwilliam Quartet plays Haydn's Quartet Op 33 No 3 "The Bird". On modern instruments they offer Webern's Bagatelles Op 9, and Moray Welsh joins them as second cellist in Schubert's Quartet D 955.

TSAR SALTAN
Today, 7.30pm, St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (222 1061)
Conducted by Howard Williams, the Ernest Read Symphony Orchestra plays Rimsky-Korsakov's delightful *Tsar Saltan* Suite. Anne-Marie Owens sings in Ravel's still more exotic *Shéhérazade*. Elgar's Symphony No 2 makes a powerful conclusion.

BRENDEL SCHUBERT
Tomorrow, 3.15pm, Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (928 3191, credit cards 928 6544)
Alfred Brendel interprets three major Schubert piano sonatas, the A minor D 784, the surprisingly lovely "Reliquie" D 840, and the last one, in B flat D 960.

LISZT RARITIES
Tomorrow, 3.30pm, Wigmore Hall
Winner of the Liszt Competition at

Juilliard, Philip Thomson plays some little-known items by that composer, including *Pensées des Morts* and *In Festo Transfigurationis*; also his *Deux Légendes*, *Musées Girs* and *Funérailles*. He also performs Ravel's *Gaspard de la Nuit* and some Chopin.

AMICI/HORSLEY
Tomorrow, 5.30pm, Colwyn Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1 (242 8032)
The Amici Quartet present Haydn's Quartet Op 77 No 2, the one fashionable Arrangi's Quartet in E flat, and Colin Horsley joins them for Dvořák's Piano Quintet.

EARLY BRIDGE
Tomorrow, 7pm, Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (928 3191, credit cards 928 6544)
The Earle Quartet celebrate their fifth anniversary by playing Haydn's Quartet Op 74 No 1, Beethoven's Quartet Op 95, but spot things by including Britten's tedious Quartet No 2.

LARCH TREES
Tomorrow, 7pm, Guildhall School of Music, Silk Street, London EC2 (492 832 349)
Malcolm Arnold's early *Larch Trees* are unearthed by the London Repertoire Orchestra under Ruth Glipps. Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto (soloist, Kunita Nagata) and Richard Strauss's *Tod Und Verklärung* are included as well.

WONDERFUL WIDOW I
Mon, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall
Susan Opper Cages's *Wonderful Widow* was a Talk-Off. Finnissy's *Aves*, Nancarrow's *Player-Piano Studies*, Finnissy's *Nancarrow*, Skemp's *Gypsy Wife's Song* and a marvelous



Full programmes: Pianos Zukerman (Tues, Festival Hall) and Piers Lane (Tomorrow, Purcell Room)

place by Cornelius Cardew titled *Voices from The Grave*. **ENDELL ANNIVERSARY**
Mon, 7.30pm, Purcell Room
The Endell Quartet celebrate their fifth anniversary by playing Haydn's Quartet Op 74 No 1, Beethoven's Quartet Op 95, but spot things by including Britten's tedious Quartet No 2.

ARTEMIO REGER
Tues, 7.30pm, St John's
The maligned Max Reger's delightfully summery Clarinet Quintet is played by the Artson Ensemble between Brahms's Piano Quintet and Schubert's "Trout" Quintet. **ZUKERMAN/NEIKRUG**
Tues, 7.30pm, Festival Hall
Pinchas Zukerman and Marc Neikrug, a notable partnership, have put together a rather odd

Akanthos. They also interpret the latter's *Dikthas and Tetras*. Earlier, at 8.30pm in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Jonathan Harvey gives a talk about *Bakht*.

OR SHALL WE DIE?
Tues, 7.45pm, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (928 6795, credit cards 928 6544)
The LSO and London Symphony Chorus with various soloists present Michael Berkeley's *Or Shall We Die?* and Delius's beautiful *Songs of Farewell*.

SUMMER GRASSES
Wed, 7.30pm, St John's
Lorenzo play Richard Hughes's bucolic-sounding Summer Grasses. Avril Anderson's *The Grass Harp* and Vores's *Five Fantasies* on Two Laments.

REMEMBERING EISEN
Wed, 7.30pm, Purcell Room
Timothy Hugh and Ian Burnside perform Osborne's *Remembering Eisenstein* for cello and piano. Martin's *Rossini Variations*, sonatas by Prokofiev and Schnittke, and Schumann's *Adagio and Allegro*.

WONDERFUL WIDOW II
Thurs, 1.15pm, St John's
Creep into the crypt for Lowri Blake (soprano), Peter Buckton (cello) and Cece's *Wonderful Widow* and Dragonetti's Duo.

GWENNETH PRYOR
Thurs, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall
Gweneth Pryor offers a varied programme including Mozart's *Requiem*, Beethoven's Piano Sonata Op 2 No 3, Chopin's *Polonaise-Fantasy* Op 81, some Debussy *Préludes* and Liszt's *Joyeuse*, and Prokofiev's Sonata No 3.

BLAKE AND THE BOMB, but "Really Glad You Came" and "Inferno" are up there with his very best. The hardest job will be to reproduce the funky richness of Michael McEvoy's arrangements on stage.

TEDDY EDWARDS
Wed, Leadmill Arts Centre, Sheffield
A certified example of what they used to call a Boss Tenor, Edwards was formed in the bebop crucible of Los Angeles' Central Avenue in the 1940s alongside such future stars as Art Farmer and Hampton Hawes.

TED NUGENT
Wed, Hammermith Odeon, London W6
If heavy-metal rock really is after all only a competition to see who can be the loudest and the coarsest under the pretence of making music, then America's Ted Nugent tapped the field years ago.

X
Thurs, Marquee Club, 90 Wardour Street, London W1 (437 9603)
When Hollywood caught on to the Sex Pistols a few years ago, X emerged as the West Coast's best attempt at assembling a punk quartet. Nowadays they are critics' darlings, although not this one's: the vocal harmonies of Exene Covenka and John Doe remind me too clearly of Surrealist Pillow. This is their British debut.

ACTUALITIES 2
Fri to Sat, The Place, 17 Dukes Road, London WC1
A three-night mini-festival celebrates the work of three outstanding British improvisers: Derek Bailey, Evan Parker and Barry Guy. Each has an evening to himself, beginning with Bailey, who leads a new four-man version of Company, which includes the gifted Dutch bassist Maarten Van Regenaren Atlanta.

IAN DURY
Wed, Glasgow University; Thurs, Middlesbrough Town Hall; Fri, York University.
Some of the stuff on his new album is twice (most of all the songs about

Opera

polished, and with Derek Hammond-Stroud as an everlastingly Bunthorne. Performances of another Coliseum revival, *The Barber of Seville*, fill out the week on Wed and Fri, with an engaging new cast led by Ann Murray and Donald Maxwell. (836 3161)

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA
After *Valkyrie*, their second new production for Cardiff, Lhar's *Merry Widow*, directed by Andrej Sarban, takes to the stage in John Street on Tues and Thurs. György Fischer conducts a cast which includes Suzanne Murphy, Kate Flowers, Thomas Allen and Thomas Hemsley. On Wed, Göran Järnqvist's tried and tested *Magic Flute* returns to the repertoire. (0222 489977)

NEW SADIEN'S WELLS
The season of operatic rolls on, with the return of Floyer's *Martha* on Mon, Wed and Fri, and in between, and far better value, with Christopher Hensley's engaging new production of *The Gondoliers*. Well sung and acted by G and S

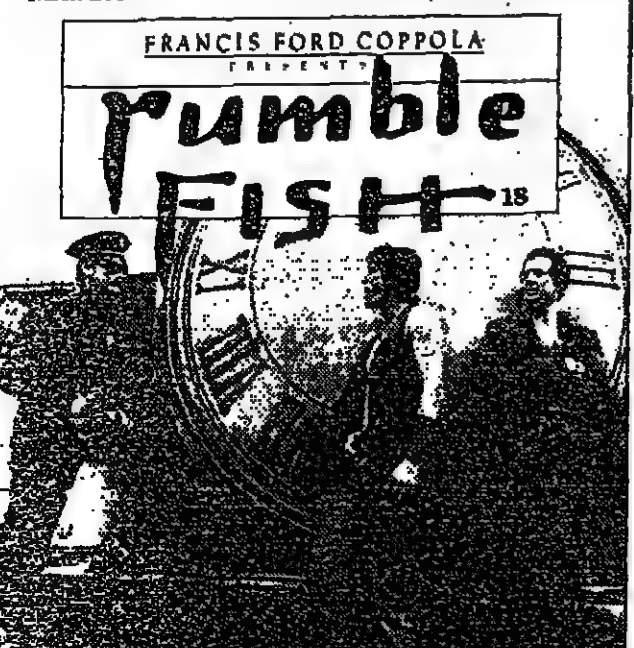
hands old and new, it can be seen this afternoon and evening, on Tues and Thurs, and twice again next Sat. (287 8916)

OPERA 80
Now arrived at Stratford's Gatehouse Theatre (0785 54653), bringing the Japanese-style *Can I tell you* tonight. On Mon and Tues they are at Peterborough's Key Theatre (0753 52439) for the new *Traviata* and then Così; and they end the week at Ipswich Corn Exchange (0478 215544)

LAST CHANCES
Tonight is the last opportunity to see two fringe productions: Spohr's rarely performed *Faust*, presented by University College Opera at the Bloomsbury Theatre, Gordon Street, London, WC1 (387 6629); and Opera Viva's *The Land of Ulisses* by Monteverdi, in the Westminster City School Theatre, Palace Street, SW1 (tickets on the door).

Films: David Robinson and Geoff Brown; Concerts: Max Harrison; Opera: Hilary Finch; Rock & Jazz: Richard Williams

Rumble Fish bears all the hallmarks of a palpable cult success...
Mick Brown - THE SUNDAY TIMES MAGAZINE



FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA
DIRECTOR
rumble fish
CAST: MATT DILLON, MICKY ROURKE, VINCENT SPANO, DIANE LANE, DIANA BEARWID, NICOLAS CAGE, DENNIS HOPFER, SE HINTON, FRANCIS COPPOLA, STEWART COPELAND, BARRY HAYKIN, DEAN TAVOULAKIS, STEPHEN W. BUDMAN, A.C. FRED ROOS, AND DOUG CLAYBOURNE
NOW
Lumiere Cinema 836 0691

Rock & Jazz

THOMPSON TWINS
Tonight, Brighton Centre; tomorrow, Colston Hall, Bristol; Tues, St Austell Coliseum; Wed, Poole Arts Centre; Fri to Sat, Hammersmith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 (748 4081)
Smash Hits gives their new album 2½ out of 10, which seems like hopelessly over-the-top enthusiasm to me.

MILLIE JACKSON
Tonight and tomorrow, Dominion Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (580 9552)
Two shows rightly round off a very successful visit; but what a pity that "I Feel Like Walking in the Rain" is not going to be a hit.

DOLLAR BRAND
Tonight, Mitchell Theatre, Glasgow; tomorrow, Aberdeen Arts Centre; Mon, Boner Hall, Dundee
The greatest exponent of "township jazz" plays telepathic duets with Carlos Ward, the hugely underrated Panamanian alto-saxophonist.

AL COHN
Tonight, Tues and Wed, Pizza Express, 10 Dean Street, London W1 (439 8722)
Inventive, swinging, mainstream-modern-tenor-saxophonist from the memorable vintage that also produced Getz, Elms, Allen Eager and Brew More.

THOMAS DOLBY
Tonight, Newcastle City Hall; tomorrow, Birmingham Odeon; Tues, Dominion, London W1; Wed, Rock City, Nottingham.
Along among contemporary synth-rock exponents, there is more to Dolby than meets the ear.

DUDU PUKWANA
Tonight, West End Arts Centre, Aldershot; tomorrow, Windsor Arts Centre; Mon, Dovecot Arts

Centre, Stockton; Tues, York Arts Centre; Wed, Corner House, Newcastle; Fri, Band on the Wall, Manchester
The South African altoist, a veteran of Chris McGregor's Blue Notes and Brotherhood of Breath, takes Ziba, his own ruminative outfit, on tour.

TINA TURNER
Tonight, Leicester University; tomorrow, Haven Theatre, Boston; Mon, Harrogate Conference Centre; Tues, Manchester Apollo
I am as pleased as anyone to see her back in the charts and storming the country, but can that version of "Help" just released as a single really be from the same woman who sang "It's Gonna Work Out Fine"? Peter Sellers's comic rendering had more soul.

JOHN CALE
Tomorrow, Lyceum Ballroom, Whitehall Street, London WC2 (838 3715)
A swift return for the Welsh innovator and his new band, recipients of mild criticism from some quarters for their recent Venue show.

IMAGES OF BRAZIL
Mon to Sat, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Firth Street, London W1 (439 0747)
Brazilian guitarist John Zaradin leads a septet including two distinguished veterans of British modern jazz: the saxophonist Don Rendell and the tuned-percussion expert Bill LaSage. I'd settle for a new series of *Mahli Muthur* from Channel 4, myself.

IAN DURY
Wed, Glasgow University; Thurs, Middlesbrough Town Hall; Fri, York University.
Some of the stuff on his new album is twice (most of all the songs about

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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1033-1037.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Today

ELGAR'S ENIGMA: In a programme to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Sir Edward Elgar, Leonard Bernstein, the famous American conductor/composer/producer, is seen at rehearsal and in performance conducting the *Enigma Variations* with the BBC Symphony Orchestra. Bernstein's interpretation of the piece, described by Elgar's biographer Michael Kennedy as "the greatest piece of orchestral music written by an Englishman", is a startlingly original. BBC2, 7.45-9.50pm.

SIR WILLIAM IN SEARCH OF XANADU: Barrie Gavin's documentary tries to capture the elusive personality of Sir William Burrell, the Glasgow shipping millionaire whose magnificent art collection is now on public display in a purpose-designed gallery in the city. The programme includes first-hand accounts from Burrell's insurance agent, gardener, housekeeper and others and there are some remarkable insights into an extraordinary man. Channel 4, 8.30-9.30pm.

PROFESSIONAL BOXING: A live transmission from the Palais de Sport in Paris of the European middleweight championship fight between Louis Acaries, the Algerian-born holder, and Britain's Tony Sibson, who is trying to recover the title he relinquished for his abortive attempt to take the world crown from Marvin Hagler. All ITV regions, 10.15-11.15pm.

VENETIAN GLASS: Glass has probably been made in Venice since Roman times, and there is documentary evidence going back more than 1,000 years. The traditional method of working, which helps to give Venetian glass its distinctiveness, is to model the glass while it is still hot and add the characteristic filigree and mosaic by hand. This exhibition, arranged to coincide with the *Genius of Venice* show at the Royal Academy, includes 250 pieces of historic and modern glass and more than 60 craft workshops will be showing their products. Italian Trade Centre, 46 Piccadilly, London W1 (734 2412). Daily, 10am-5pm, admission free. Until Wed.

Tomorrow

MAGIC GOES NORTH: The international Magicians' Gala is the culmination of the British Magic Convention which attracts practitioners from East Germany, Sweden, France, Spain and Britain. Jugglers, magicians with balloons, illusionists, and a Victorian magic act are all at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool (0253 27766). 7pm. Tickets: £3.50.

IF THEY COULD SEE ME NOW: Stage gala in aid of the Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus. Among those appearing in this song, dance, recitation and music show are Claire Bloom, Judi Dench, Alan Jay Lerner, Wendy Hiller, Faith Brook, Dorothy Tutin, Georgina Hale, Liz Robertson, Tom Bell, Michael Hordern, Michael Williams, Denis Quilley, Frank Finlay, Sylvia Sims, Derek Nimmo, Tim Curry and Joanna Lumley. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (836 8108). Today only, at 7pm. Tickets £25-£250, or a few at £50 including buffet and wine with performers.

WALESI WALES: A series of six films on the history of modern Wales presented by Dai Smith, who lectures in Welsh history at University College, Cardiff, and was co-author of the acclaimed official history of the Welsh Rugby Union. In the first programme he discusses the question of identity and formulates his own answer to the question, "who do they think they are?" BBC2, 5.10-6pm.

NEVER SING LOUDER THAN LOVELY: Richard Baker presents a tribute to Dame Isobel Baillie, the Scottish-born soprano, who died in September at the age of 88. She was brought up and studied in Manchester, made her London debut in 1923 and for 30 years was a leading performer in oratorio, being particularly well known for her singing of Handel's *Messiah* and Brahms's *German Requiem*. She is remembered by Dame Eva Turner, Sir



Childish delights: Three of the treasures from the Van Veen collection up for sale at Sotheby's on Tuesday. From left: An engraved, hand-coloured pictorial card, one of a set of five from about 1826; a "phantasmagoscope" which can be spun to show a man eating a cow (c 1860); and a Dutch version of Little Red Riding Hood in which the pictures move by levers (1866)

KEITH FALKNER AND BERYL REID and the programme includes extracts from her recordings. Radio 4, 8-8.45pm

SPITTING IMAGE: Billed as a cross between *The Muppets* and *Not the Nine O'Clock News*, this is a new 12-part series of topical satires in which well-known figures, from President Reagan to Tony Benn and Joan Collins, are represented by puppets. They are the creation of Roger Law and Peter Fluck, whose work is familiar from magazine covers around the world, and will feature sketches by John Lloyd, co-producer of *Not the Nine O'Clock News*, and Tony Hendra, former editor of the American satirical magazine, *National Lampoon*. All ITV regions, 10-10.30pm.

TREVOR GRIFFITHS: Although he has written several stage plays, including *The Comedians*, and was the screenwriter on Warren Beatty's *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, Griffiths has done most of his work for television, from the series, *Bill Brandt*, to single plays like *Through the Night*. In *The South Bank Show*, Griffiths talks with Melvyn Bragg about his writing and the problems of dealing with political and social issues through television drama. All ITV regions, 10.30-11.30pm.

Monday

WORDS AND MUSIC: Benny Green, Denis King, Elaine Delmar, Toni Kani in a compilation of songs and music by Coward, Kern, Gershwin, Puccini, Rodgers, Berlin, Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Duran, Prewitt and others. Ambassadors (836 1171). Opens today at 7pm, until Mar 3, Tues-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 8.30pm.



Plucky performers: Italian man of many talents, Dario Fo (see Tues) and British boxer Tony Sibson hoping to regain a European title (Today)

THE MIKADO: Gilbert and Sullivan operetta in the production by the Stratford Festival, Ontario, Canada, directed and choreographed by Brian Macdonald. Cast includes Marie Baron, Eric Donker, Richard Macmillan, John Keane, Paul Messel, Avo Kibasi. Old Vic (828 7816). Previews today and tomorrow at 7.30pm, opening night Sat Wed at 7pm, in the presence of Princess Anne. Until Mar 7, Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.45pm; matinees Wed at 2.30pm, Sat at 4pm (no matinee this Wed).

VERDICT: Anthony Steel, Hildegard Neil and Richard Coleman, directed by Charles Vance, start a tour of 21 provincial towns with this Agatha Christie murder mystery, the only piece written by her specifically for the stage. Richmond Theatre, The Green, Richmond, Surrey (940 0080). Opens today at 7.45pm. Until Mar 3, Mon-Fri at 7.45pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.15pm; matinee Wed at 2.30pm.

THE MAN WHO FELL IN LOVE WITH HIS WIFE: Ted Whitehead's play, with Tom Bell and Lynn Farleigh (see page 16).

Tuesday

CHILDREN'S BOOKS: The first part of the Van Veen collection of children's books and juvenilia goes under the hammer. Treasures amassed by the scholarly Dutch banker include a host of nineteenth-century moving picture books, miniature books, panoramas, peepshows and "phantasmagoscopes" - the circular spinning pictures which were the forerunners of film and showed acrobats, jugglers and a man swallowing a cow. Sotheby's, Bloomsbury Place, London W1 (493 8080) at 11am and 2pm.



Striking survivors: Anthony Andrews as a scientist scarred by nuclear fallout (see Tues) and William Morris, living on in his art (Thurs)

Wednesday

BRITISH PICTURES: A two-day sale of 574 paintings, drawings and watercolours from the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries begins with sombre portraits and continues with seascapes, horses, birds, landscapes and genre scenes. Among them are a watercolour of Margate Sands by Kate Greenaway and Sir Frederick William Burton's personification of "Weary". Sotheby's, 54 & 55 New Bond Street, London W1 (493 8080). Today at 11am; tomorrow at 2.30pm.

one to do with the exact mass of elements and the other about resistance and capacitance values of an astable multivibrator using the NE555 (no, neither do I) - and a clever little thing on the problem of Claude Gaspard Bachet de Mezirac. Claude's problem, as I am sure you will know, was writing a number which equalled the sum of four whole squares: had he been born in the computer age instead of 1581, it would have been no problem at all.

Is all this worth £3,597 I have to say, without hesitation, yes - but not for the demonstration programs, which even when they work are pretty hopeless. Basicode is undoubtedly neanderthal stuff in the kind of software it can handle. Graphics and colours are, for instance, beyond its ken. But, unlike commercial software, it is designed to be broken into and modified by the home user.

Even a relative idiot can list programs to check for errors or add in little sophistications, and in this way Basicode represents

a neat adjunct to learning how to write for the computer. The word from Holland is that a more sophisticated version of Basicode is on the way - and will no doubt be available over the airwaves to those who own the present one to translate it. In the meantime, *The Clup Shop* is looking to put the system to some greater use than playing games. I suspect the applications will never be sophisticated in themselves, simply because of the limitations dictated by the nature of electronic Esperanto, but for half the price of a standard games cassette, can we really complain?

David Hewson

Basicode runs on Apple II and IIe, BBC Models A and B, the Commodore 64, the Colour Genie, Commodore 3000, 4000 and 8000, Pat 2001, VIC 20, Sharp MZ80K, Sinclair ZX-81, and TRS-80/Video. It costs £3.95 from Broadcasting Support Services, PO Box 7, London W3 6XJ.

JUMPERS: Tom Stoppard's play revived with Tom Courtenay and Julie Walters in the lead roles. Royal Exchange, Manchester (061 833 5633). Preview today at 8pm, opens tomorrow at 7pm. Until Apr 7, Mon-Tues at 7.30pm, Wed-Sat at 8pm; matinees Wed at 2.30pm, Sat at 4pm.

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL: England play France in Paris with memories still fresh of their last encounter, in the World Cup, when England had a fine 3-1 victory. Since then fortunes have changed, with England failing to qualify for the European Championship which France will host in the summer. The match is being covered live on BBC1, 7.20-9.20pm.

Z FOR ZACHARIAH: Anthony Andrews, wearing make-up that took three hours to put on, plays a scientist suffering from radiation sickness in a television film for the Play For Today slot, written and directed by Anthony Gurner. He strikes up a friendship with a fellow survivor from the nuclear holocaust, a 16-year-old girl, who is played by Pipa Hurrey, her first professional role. BBC1, 9.35-11.35pm.

THE WRECK OF THE CAMPESE BAY: The excellent *Chronicle* programme joins the excavation of one of the most interesting wrecks discovered in the Mediterranean, off the island of Giglio near Italy. Michael Merson-Bound, an Oxford archaeologist, started out on the trail of the wreck 30 years ago, spurred by old photographs and the memories of sub-aqua enthusiasts. Since then he has steadily built up clues to the wreck's identity and more finds are expected this season. BBC2, 8.10-9pm.

DARIO FO: Television profile of the Italian playwright, performer, scholar and clown whose poison film with his wife, Franca Rame, but as his work took a more political turn he fell out with the television authorities; he has also been banned from visiting the United States. The programme visits Fo at home and at work and films him performing his masterpiece, *Mistero Buffo*, in a tent at the Venice Carnival. BBC2, 10-10.50pm.



Striking survivors: Anthony Andrews as a scientist scarred by nuclear fallout (see Tues) and William Morris, living on in his art (Thurs)

upper part, to assist in the illusion that the whole thing was made at the same time."

"Could it have been? I mean, was nothing like this made in 1603?"

"Cupboards with superstructures of the this type were produced at that time, yes; but they were mounted on bases with open shelves, or enclosed by doors - not constructed as chests with rising tops, like this, which needed the lid to be divided and rehung in front of the base."

"So you're saying, quite categorically, that the surviving Lancaster cupboards of the argument - nothing was constructed in this way in the early seventeenth century?"

"No, I'm not saying that. Unique pieces made in same eccentric way are constantly turning up to confound the experts. But unconventional construction arouses suspicions which are very often justified."

"And was it the construction that made you doubtful of this piece in the first place?"

"Construction, proportions, varying quality in the carving and the colour. To even up all the miscellaneous bits and pieces, the Frankenstein of the furniture trade who created this monster gave it a nice coat of black stain all over - the usual finish to a vast range of nineteenth-century spoofs."

"So much for all those Victorian values we've been told to emulate!"

"I did say spoofs - not fakes. Some of these carvings were done with intent to deceive, but many were the work of amateurs, intent on improving their own possessions. Wood-carving was considered a polite accomplishment for ladies."

"Really? Perhaps I'll revive it. That Conran desk in my husband's study - a couple of carvings would liven it up."

Peter Philip

Collecting

Mar 3: Rugby Union, Ireland v Scotland and France v England.
Mar 4: Civic service at St Mary's Church, Lichfield, Staffordshire; marks the official start of the bi-centenary commemoration of the town's most famous son, Dr Samuel Johnson, who died in 1784.

THE WORLD WALK: Also McCowen plays Albert Speer, Hitler's former architect and armaments minister. In a play by Jonathan Smith which is set during Speer's 20-year imprisonment in Spandau jail. The title comes from Speer's daily walk around the walled prison garden during which he records the number of kilometres covered and wonders whether he will do the equivalent of the circumference of the earth. BBC2, 10-10.50pm.

OVER THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE: An offbeat Jewish film comedy starring Elliott Gould as a call owner on the wrong side of Brooklyn Bridge who has aspirations to cross over to the Manhattan side, and the problems he encounters when his new college boy, owner falls in love. Cort 15, Leicester Square Theatre (836 1527).

THE SPOT: Edgar Wallace's play of 1920s Chicago and its gangster life, directed by Rob Walker, and stars Simon Callow and James Warwick, with Shaun Curry and Maurice Colbourne. Palace Theatre, Watford (023 25671). Opens today at 7.45pm. Until Mar 31, Mon-Thurs at 7.45, and Sat at 8pm. Press night Mar 8 at 7.45pm; matinee Mar 24 at 3pm.

RADIO MEMORIES: The first auction devoted entirely to vintage radio equipment includes a mid-nineteenth century telegraph receiver, 1920s broadcast receivers, a collection of First World War military radio equipment and a pre-1914 spark gap transmitter and receiver, a Baird television made in 1930. Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (581 2231) at 2pm.

STRIPPERS: Peter Terson's new play (commissioned by the theatre) is the result of local research by the author into the way some women turn to striptease work to boost family income during the recession. John Blackmore directs a cast including Judi Lamb, Suzanne Fellows, Pamela Blackwood and Tracie Elizabeth Gilman in this world premiere production. Newcastle Playhouse, Newcastle upon Tyne (0632 323421). Previews today, Fri, Mar 3 and Mar 5 at 7.20pm. Opens Mar 6 at 7.30pm until Mar 24, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm.

FURNITURE AND METALWORK: One unusual object going under the hammer is a red Victorian bird-cage in the shape of a Gothic house (estimate £300-£400). In addition to pewter plates, brass candlesticks, refectory tables and cabinets there is a fine William and Mary burr-walnut bureau (estimate £4,000-£5,000). Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 (839 9060) at 11am.

WILLIAM MORRIS TODAY: An exhibition to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of William Morris, epic poet, storyteller, inspiration of the arts and crafts revival and utopian socialist, whose influence lives on in his bold and naturalistic designs for wallpaper and fabrics. The exhibition sets Morris's work and ideas in the contexts of both Victorian Britain

and the present day and makes use of cartoons, maps, photographs, video and computers. Institute of Contemporary Arts, The Mall, London SW1 (830 3647). Until Apr 23, Tues-Sat noon-6pm. Admission 50p, children under 14 free.

STREET FLEET: No use looking to writer-director Joel Schumacher for finesse, but the rude, warm vigour of this comedy about Washington's most disreputable taxi firm earns a definite appeal. A bustling cast includes the huge Mr T (from *Rocky III*), Adam Baldwin, and Charlie Bennett, an energetic comic discovered by Schumacher on the streets of New York. Cort 15, Plaza Piccadilly Circus (457 1234). Classic Oxford Street (836 0310).

BEYOND THE DOOR: Film by Liliana Cavani of *Night Porter* fame. The story of a love triangle complicated by betrayal and denial. Starring Marcello Mastroianni as the man jailed for a murder he did not commit. Cort 18, Classic Chelsea (352 5096). Classic Tottenham Court Road (636 6148).

CHAMPION: John Hurt in John Irwin's film based on the true story of the jockey, Bob Champion, who overcame a multitude of problems including cancer to win the Grand National in 1981. Cort PG, Cecil L. Jefferies Square (930 6111).

CHRISTINE: New film by John Carpenter (*Halloween* and *Assault on Precinct 13*) and based on the thriller Stephen King's book. Set in the United States; it is the story of a 1958 Plymouth Fury car called Christine, which has both mind and emotions of its own, and the consequences when its new college boy owner falls in love. Cort 15, Leicester Square Theatre (836 1527).

Neat attempt to find a common language

People who play around with the notion that a common language unites all do so at their own risk. One recalls Graham Greene's acerbic description of the failed spy preaching the dubious virtues of Entenationo in *The Confidential Agent*. And, while it may be well-meant, who knows a single word of Esperanto?

It is with some trepidation, then, that I approach an offering from the BBC which promises to bridge the gap between most common types of home computer and make them all understand the same computer language. Basicode is the name of the program, as any addict of Barry Norman's Radio 4 spot *The Chip Shop* will know for her singing of Handel's *Messiah* and Brahms's *German Requiem*. She is remembered by Dame Eva Turner, Sir

the program and 18 demonstration routines are yours.

The Basicode kit consists of the tape and a rather impenetrable booklet explaining how it can be used to enable your computer to understand programs broadcast by *The Chip Shop* and a couple of European radio stations. You record the fuzzy clicks put out on the radio and then feed them into your machine: the Basicode translator adapts these for your use by ironing out the idiosyncratic wrinkles which each computer has in its version of the common language Basic.

Everything clear so far? Good, because Basicode purchasers will need their wits about them. For a start, you can spend ages tracking down your particular translation routine on side one of the cassette. All 13 of them sit like musical tracks, separated by Barry Norman's brief introduction. Finding the one you want is no mean feat.

Once you have achieved this, the program fits neatly into the computer and stays there until you switch the machine off. Each make of computer has different routines for using the program. In my case, the Commodore 64 manual was none too clear on how to use a nine-symbol code to instruct the computer to load another piece of software - but after a hour of puzzling I got the hang of things.

The trouble began when I flipped the cassette over and tried some of the demonstration programs. The welcome message slipped in easily, and gave me a couple of radio frequencies to use to pick up continental Basicode offerings. The other 17 items were less amenable. The most complex game, a rudimentary version of the Kong school of arcade games, was happy to fill the screen but resolutely refused to respond to any command to begin. The same applied to a neat program which seemed to be designed to show the chord positions on a guitar.

After a couple of hours' work, the only ones I could rely on were two scientific formulas -

one to do with the exact mass of elements and the other about resistance and capacitance values of an astable multivibrator using the NE555 (no, neither do I) - and a clever little thing on the problem of Claude Gaspard Bachet de Mezirac. Claude's problem, as I am sure you will know, was writing a number which equalled the sum of four whole squares: had he been born in the computer age instead of 1581, it would have been no problem at all.

Is all this worth £3,597 I have to say, without hesitation, yes - but not for the demonstration programs, which even when they work are pretty hopeless. Basicode is undoubtedly neanderthal stuff in the kind of software it can handle. Graphics and colours are, for instance, beyond its ken. But, unlike commercial software, it is designed to be broken into and modified by the home user.

Even a relative idiot can list programs to check for errors or add in little sophistications, and in this way Basicode represents



PLEASE STOP FEEDING THE CHIP SHOP. I'M MUCH BETTER OFF WITHOUT TERRY WOGAN

one to do with the exact mass of elements and the other about resistance and capacitance values of an astable multivibrator using the NE555 (no, neither do I) - and a clever little thing on the problem of Claude Gaspard Bachet de Mezirac. Claude's problem, as I am sure you will know, was writing a number which equalled the sum of four whole squares: had he been born in the computer age instead of 1581, it would have been no problem at all.

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Even a relative idiot can list programs to check for errors or add in little sophistications, and in this way Basicode represents

a neat adjunct to learning how to write for the computer. The word from Holland is that a more sophisticated version of Basicode is on the way - and will no doubt be available over the airwaves to those who own the present one to translate it. In the meantime, *The Clup Shop* is looking to put the system to some greater use than playing games. I suspect the applications will never be sophisticated in themselves, simply because of the limitations dictated by the nature of electronic Esperanto, but for half the price of a standard games cassette, can we really complain?

David Hewson

Basicode runs on Apple II and IIe, BBC Models A and B, the Commodore 64, the Colour Genie, Commodore 3000, 4000 and 8000, Pat 2001, VIC 20, Sharp MZ80K, Sinclair ZX-81, and TRS-80/Video. It costs £3.95 from Broadcasting Support Services, PO Box 7, London W3 6XJ.

Carve-ups by the furniture Frankensteins

"How," asked the owner, "would you describe this? Is it a buffet or a court cupboard?"

"I'd call it a severe case of excessive chest expansion," replied the valuer. "The sort of thing some auctioneers catalogue as basically seventeenth century with later additions, and the dealers dismiss as a Victorian carve-up."

"But that's absurd, Victorian? My Uncle Eustace considered it to be the finest piece of early oak in his collection. It's dated 1603."

"It began life, probably about 1650, as a simple, box-like chest or coffer, with panelled front and ends, and a plank top hinged along the rear edge. As a type, it was one of the most popular pieces of furniture over a very long period, and hundreds like it have survived - some in original condition, others embellished to a greater or lesser extent."

"You make 'embellished' sound like a dirty word."

"The whole of the superstructure - the central cupboard with its canied ends, the canopy above and the balusters supporting it - was added about a hundred years ago, using genuine seventeenth-century panels carved with lozenges, probably cannibalised from another chest. The balusters were no doubt parts of a pair of bedposts, re-carved with acanthus leaves. The mouldings and the rest of the upper part were new at the time. And the date of James I's accession was added as a bonus."

"Oh well, at least the bottom part is authentic. That, I dare say, is what Uncle Eustace really appreciated - all that rich carving."

"I dare say. But the Victorians, like your Uncle Eustace, favoured oak that was decorated in a mixture of Gothic, Renaissance and baroque styles, that they liked to think of as Elizabethan. In this instance, they superimposed the carvings of the medieval knight and the bishop, with the grotesque mask between, on the plain front panels, and planted a Mannerist figure at either end."

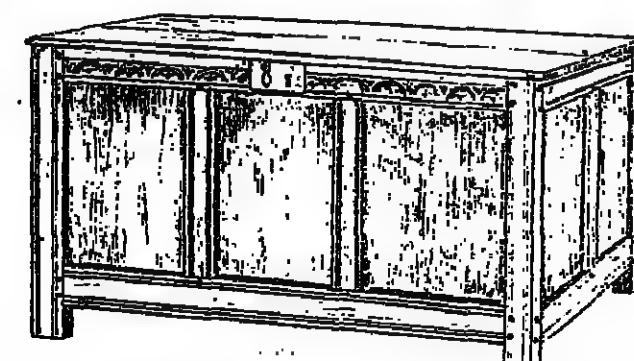
Excessive chest expansion: 1650 panelled coffer before and after elaborate Victorian embellishment

"You mean the morman and mermaid?"

"Male supporters of this kind are called allants and female, caryatids."

"Whatever they are, I've always thought the poor girl looked quite terrified."

"As well she might, having to pretend to be supporting all that superstructure. In fact, these are authentic fragments, probably removed from a Jacobean



Excessive chest expansion: 1650 panelled coffer before and after elaborate Victorian embellishment

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"As well she might, having to pretend to be supporting all that superstructure. In fact, these are authentic fragments, probably removed from a Jacobean

churny piece and planked on to the stiles of the chest. Caryatid supports of that period often were horrified expressions."

"So according to you, none of the carving, even on the basic chest, is original?"

"Very little. Only that row of lunette running along the rail supporting the top of the chest. They've been rather coarsely copied on the cornice of the

upper part, to assist in the illusion that the whole thing was made at the same time."

"Could it have been? I mean, was nothing like this made in 1603?"

"Cupboards with superstructures of the this type were produced at that time, yes; but they were mounted on bases with open shelves, or enclosed by doors - not constructed as chests with rising tops, like this, which needed the lid to be divided and rehung in front of the base."

"So you're saying, quite categorically, that the surviving Lancaster cupboards of the argument - nothing was constructed in this way in the early seventeenth century?"

"No, I'm not saying that. Unique pieces made in same eccentric way are constantly turning up to confound the experts. But unconventional construction arouses suspicions which are very often justified."

"And was it the construction that made you doubtful of this piece in the first place?"

"Construction, proportions, varying quality in the carving and the colour. To even up all the miscellaneous bits and pieces, the Frankenstein of the furniture trade who created this monster gave it a nice coat of black stain all over - the usual finish to a vast range of nineteenth-century spoofs."

"So much for all those Victorian values we've been told to emulate!"

"I did say spoofs - not fakes. Some of these carvings were done with intent to deceive, but many were the work of amateurs, intent on improving their own possessions. Wood-carving was considered a polite accomplishment for ladies."

"Really? Perhaps I'll revive it. That Conran desk in my husband's study - a couple of caryatids would liven it up."

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

The Treasury cat among banking pigeons

By yesterday evening, the gilt-edged market was calming down, after the choppy 24 hours since the Inland Revenue had casually announced that it would henceforth be taxing building societies' capital gains on gilts at 40 per cent.

A few mysteries have been cleared up. The disingenuous pronouncement that the change was being made purely on "legal advice" was given political context by Mr Ian Stewart, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury. Yes, of course ministers were a party to the Inland Revenue's action. Why was this tax-raising measure not announced in the Budget? It arises out of the application of existing law, not a policy change to be embodied in the Finance Bill.

Even so, the timing was odd. It came through to brokers' offices just before five o'clock on Thursday. If the Revenue thought it would cool things down by holding back until after normal market hours, it reckoned without the lure of juicy commissions. Gilt-edged brokers simply stayed at their desks - and one estimates the building societies off-loaded £2,500m of stock. It was a double bonanza for the jobbers, facing a one-way market on Thursday evening and Friday morning; they simply widened their margins, marked prices up and down - and collected handsome profits.

Long-term, the feeling seems to be that the impact on the market will be modest. There will be an incentive for building societies to look down new investment avenues and perhaps to increase their holdings of bank certificates of deposit. There will also be an incentive for the 11 biggest building societies (with assets over £5,000m and therefore the right to do so) to issue more certificates of deposit themselves.

In the political market, however, the consequences of Thursday's announcement have still to be worked out. The

building societies have made much of their anger, threatening dire consequences for mortgage rates; they have called a meeting for March 16 - just three days after the Budget. But it is no coincidence that the announcement came only days after the societies had charted a future course that would take them deeper into the retail banking business. A tax change that brings them more in line with the banks can be presented as the logical consequence of their own development strategy.

Many other possible changes flow from that logic, which have implications for the Budget. If the Chancellor's aim is to equalize the tax treatment of financial institutions, will he abolish the composite rate of tax building societies pay? Will he try to save civil service manpower by getting the banks to pay interest net of tax? Given that "equalization" is expected to mean more tax all round on financial services, not less, who will feel the next blow? Banks? Insurance companies? It will be an uneasy fortnight for the City.

Meanwhile, the Bank of England has been carrying out its traditional pre-Budget smoothing out of money market pressure. There are two peaks to the revenue season; when corporation tax comes in towards the end of January and when Petroleum Revenue Tax is paid in early March. Last year, the Bank had to give temporary help to the banking system as early as January 21.

This year things have gone more smoothly, through February, but now the Bank reckons help is needed. It is offering temporary facilities to all recognised banks and licensed deposit-takers (above a certain minimum size) for amounts up to 11 per cent of each institution's eligible liabilities, compared with a limit of 1½ per cent early last year. If all the offers were taken up, the assistance would amount to £900m.

Good omen for Hanson Trust

After nine weeks of heated exchanges, Hanson Trust's £247m takeover bid for London Brick closes finally at 3 pm on Tuesday. The result is difficult to predict but a 7p leap in the share price yesterday to 168p after heavy tea-time buying by stockbrokers Rowe & Pitman, indicates that the bid will succeed. The brokers were unlikely to be buying on behalf of a 14th-hour "white knight" Charter Consolidated, was one of yesterday's speculation probably they were buying because Hanson's convertible offer is a cheap way into Hanson shares, if you accept that an industrial conglomerate, with 30 per cent of London Brick in the bag, is the winner.

The majority of other shareholders have still to decide and no one can be blamed for taking their time. London Brick has put up a ferocious fight. It has forecast pretax profits of £36m for this year - £10m higher than 1983 and more than £20m more than in 1982. Brick deliveries so far this year are 10 per cent ahead of the level on which the £36m forecast was based so the company may do even better.

The Takeover Panel will not allow the company to say much about 1983. Hanson's bankers complained yesterday about comments its chairman made about 1983. He was, apparently, misquoted, but it is clear that further progress will be

made. London Brick expect fletton deliveries to be higher and, provided there is no hitch in planning consent, the cost benefits of the new £25m brick works in Bedfordshire should begin to feed through, in that year. The effect on profits of the group's new "super fletton" brick, due to come into production next year, should not be underestimated. It will sell at near the price of a high quality non-fletton facing brick and have the low production cost characteristics of a fletton.

London Brick's profit potential has long been recognized by investment analysts. It is a pity it has taken the management so long to tap it. If it had set in train the current programme of action two years earlier, it would not be facing this bid and there would be no danger of it losing control at 180p a share.

But the change is now apparent. Hanson is going to find it difficult to go away if it loses this time with its near 30 per cent shareholding in the company. Long term holders would, therefore, seem to have little to lose by rejecting the bid despite the quality of an investment in Hanson being offered through the convertible. In the short term, the share price is bound to fall if the bid fails. Short term holders should either gamble by accepting the convertible or selling in the market.

Britoil extends deadline for Scott Lithgow reprieve

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

Hopes of saving Scott Lithgow from closure brightened considerably yesterday when Britoil made clear that it is increasingly confident that its crucial unfinished North Sea oil rig will now be completed at the threatened Clydebank yard.

The board of Britoil - which originally cancelled the rig before Christmas - met yesterday to discuss the Scott Lithgow situation and agreed to give the rival bidders for three years more time to complete their negotiations before confirming the cancellation.

Meanwhile, Howard Doris, the Scottish oil rig construction company, dropped a strong hint that it intended to make a formal bid for the yard within the next two weeks to match the one already promised by Trafalgar House.

A statement from Britoil yesterday said that its negotiations with Trafalgar House had now reached a stage where both parties could enter detailed contractual negotiations about the completion of the rig, which is only one third finished and

already running two years behind schedule.

"These will cover both technical and commercial factors, the preliminary discussions having established that there is a basis for detailed negotiations", the statement said.

Britoil emphasized, however, that its discussions with other interested parties, which include both Howard Doris and Bechtel, are continuing. Britoil has consistently sought to give other bidders besides Trafalgar House time to prepare rival bids for the yard.

Howard Doris's statement said it had completed initial discussions with both Britoil and British Shipbuilders, and would be approaching the trade unions next week. It intended to follow this with "submissions" to Britoil and to British Shipbuilders' chairman, Mr Graham Day, within the next two weeks. A spokesman for the company said that this would be a formal bid for the yard.

Trafalgar House said last



Graham Day: in talks with Howard Doris

night that it welcomed the Britoil statement, which marked a step forward for Scott Lithgow. Trafalgar House continues to be sceptical about the chances of any other company producing a competitive bid, but appears to have dropped its original target of completing its

own deal by the end of this month.

"We are doing everything in our power to bring this to a speedy conclusion," a spokesman said. "Time is pressing, but clearly a lot depends on the other side in these negotiations."

British Shipbuilders said that it had had exploratory talks with Howard Doris yesterday, and expected to have further contacts next week. But it emphasized that Trafalgar House was still the only company it was negotiating with. "Everything depends on the bidder reaching agreement with Britoil," a spokesman said.

Directors at Britoil are believed to have satisfied themselves that at least one of the bidders will be able to complete the rig in time for the drilling season in 1986.

Two thousand boilmakers from Swan Hunter's four Tyneside shipyards yesterday voted to ban overtime 10 days after signing of a peace deal. Their action is in response to a disagreement over payments for abnormal working conditions.

Kuwait acts over market collapse

By Jeremy Warner

The Kuwaiti Government is to set up a \$1 billion (£690m) company to help pick up the pieces left by the collapse of 18 months ago of the country's unofficial stock exchange, the Suq al Manakh.

The collapse came after a fall in share prices resulted in investors being unable to honour post-dated cheques, worth an estimated \$94 billion. The cheques had been used to buy shares in expectation of their prices going up before payment was due.

The formation of the new company, announced yesterday by the Kuwaiti minister of finance and oil, Shaikh Ali Khalifa al Sabah, is the latest in a series of actions taken by the Government to resolve the financial crisis caused by the collapse in the market.

The new company will take over property and shares owned by key stock market dealers, who have been declared bankrupt by a government-appointed arbitration panel, set up after the collapse in the market. It will also have substantial cash resources to help support its investments.

The arbitration has estimated the worth of the 17 largest speculators, at between 20 and 34 per cent of their liabilities.

The Kuwaiti Government will own about 40 per cent of the new company, and the rest will be offered for subscription.

In the heyday of the Suq al Manakh, nearly all the companies listed were speculating in one another's shares regardless of whether they were genuine investment companies or those involved in trading manufacturing or construction.

Agents plan sell-off in 1986

By Our Financial Correspondent

The Crown Agents hope to make their first move towards privatization in 1986. Mr Peter Graham, the Senior Crown Agent, said yesterday. This is likely to involve the placing of a minority of shares with City institutions as a prelude to a full stock market flotation three years later.

Mr Graham, speaking the day after the Government's reprieve of the 151-year-old organisation, confirmed that he was also keen to see employees and staff take between 10 and 20 per cent of equity.

The Government would have to retain a shareholding of about 50 per cent for some time, however, in order not to risk losing the custom of overseas governments and other bodies, which have always valued the impartial public sector reputation of the Agents.

The Agents expect to be back in profit by 1986, when they will be much slimmer and more streamlined. After selling their London head office at Millbank, for a minimum of £10m and cutting staff numbers from 1,200 to fewer than 900, the

capital base at privatization is likely to be no more than £10m.

Mr Graham, who took over as part-time Senior Crown Agent last summer, acknowledged that the property investment problems of the early 1970s had not helped the Agents' struggle to survive after the loss of the lucrative Brunei investment management contract last summer.

"Most people think of the Agents in terms of the horrible and expensive mess of 1974, and this still lives with us."

Power stations may be run privately

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

A power station closed since 1981 and one due for closure later this year, with the loss of 200 jobs, may become the first two in Britain to be operated commercially by private industry, supplying power to the national grid.

Taylor Woodrow Energy and Balfour Beatty are to carry out a joint study into the possibility of operating the stations at Camarthen Bay, due to close in October, and at Plymouth "B", which closed in 1981.

On Monday, engineers will

move into the stations to make engineering and cost studies. Their reports are likely to be ready early in the summer when the companies will jointly decide whether to become the first to take advantage of changes in the Energy Act and become private power-station operators.

The Plymouth station was built in 1951 as a coal-fired operation and converted to oil-burning in 1959. Camarthen Bay was built as a coal-fired station in 1954.

Taylor and Balfour, which are also involved in the Severn Barrage tidal power project, plan to reconvert Plymouth to coal and fuel both stations with supplies bought from the National Coal Board. The use of imported coal has, at this stage, been ruled out.

Balfour has designed, built and operated power stations and Taylor has been involved in wind-powered electricity generation for the national grid in Orkney.

Dollar slide continues

The dollar continued to slide yesterday, losing nearly 3 pence to finish London trading at DM12,629.5, a four-month low. Since Tuesday, when fears of a possible closure of the Straits of Hormuz caused a short-lived move into dollars, the United States currency has dropped almost 7.5 pence or 2.7 per cent.

The pound lost some ground after a statement from Iran that the Straits would be kept open but it later recovered to finish nearly a cent up at \$1,471.5, its highest closing level since late November.

Its trade-weighted index, reflecting losses against European currencies, fell 0.1 to 82.6, a rise of only 0.1 on the week.

Market report, page 22

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 815.8 up 8.9
FT Glts: 82.39 down 0.57
FT All Share: 491.30 up 1.41
Bargains: 28,040
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 106.66 down 0.37
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 1143.84 up 9.21
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 9,962.87 up 23.31
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index: 1048.78 down 18.53
Amsterdam: 165.9 down 2.0
Sydney: AC Index: 743.8 down 1.6
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 1034.5 up 6.6
Sterling: 1031.7 down 11.3 (day's high: 1036.9; low 1030.8)

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling
\$1.4715 up 90pts
Index \$2.6 down 0.1
DM 3.8725 down 0.01
FF 11.92 down 0.0325
Yen 343.25 up 1.75
Dollar
Index 127.5
DM 2.6295 down 0.0250
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4725
Dollar DM 2.6252
INTERNATIONAL
ECU £40.580629
SDR £0.719359

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$396.10 pm \$395.75
close \$396.00 \$395.75
(£269.00-£269.50)
New York (latest): \$397.00
Kruggerand (per coin): \$408.00-£409.50 (£277-278)
Sovereigns (new): \$93.0-£94.0 (£63.25-£64)
*Excludes VAT

NEWS IN BRIEF

Murdoch in SEC action

News International, the group headed by Mr Rupert Murdoch, is seeking access to the shareholders' list of Warner Communications, the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington was told yesterday the group has informed Warner it is exploring alternatives aimed at influencing management or acquiring control.

● The Harris Queensway carpet group has again urged shareholders in Stylo, the Bradford shoe company, to accept its £35m offer.

● New York stocks moved up in early trading yesterday with the Dow Jones industrial average up 9.5 points to 144.13. But analysts said it was too early to predict a reversal of the seven-week decline.

● Powerline International, which distributes and services electronic power supplies, is to get a quote on the Unlisted Securities Market. Directors forecast profits doubling to more than £1m for 1984.

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 9½
Discount market loans week fixed 9½ - 9
3 month interbank 9¼ - 9½
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10½ - 10¾
3 month DM 5½ - 5¾
3 month Fr 13½ - 14
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9.8
Treasury long bond 98½ - 99½
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period January 4, 1984 to February 7, 1984 inclusive: 9.493 per cent.

US oil groups face curbs

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Legislation creating a national oil company to keep prices down during periods of tight supply will be soon introduced by a group of Congressmen who want to limit the power of private oil companies.

The Congressmen have expressed concern over the Justice Department's decision to drop a six-year investigation of alleged restraints of trade by leading oil companies during the 1973-74 crisis.

"A national company would prevent the oil companies from being able to jerk the public around," said Mr Richard

Ottiger, a New York Congressman who is the main sponsor of the Bill.

Mr Ottiger, who chairs a House sub-committee on energy conservation and power, was concerned by last month's oil shortage in New York during the cold wave which triggered a sharp rise in prices.

A national company, charged with the task of buying refined oil products when prices are low, storing them at strategic places and selling them at below market prices, would prevent erratic price fluctuations. Mr Ottiger said.

Plan for small initial stake

NFC has cash to buy Sealink

By Philip Robinson

National Freight Consortium, the transport and travel business which said recently it would have to review debt repayments, would need no additional finance to stage a buy-out of Sealink ferries from the Government.

NFC, headed by Sir Peter Thompson, would provide the management and take a small equity stake but with an option to buy out the interests of its partners within five years as part of a plan to gain a Stock Exchange quotation for a Joint NFC/Sealink company.

Mr James Watson, finance director of NFC, said yesterday: "We could cope with our involvement in Sealink within our current capital spending programme."

However, NFC will need to raise money to fund expansion elsewhere. When it announced a 71 per cent pre-tax profit jump to £16m last month, NFC also revealed it had major distribution contracts - for Whitbread in the South-east and Sainsbury's in the West



Sir Peter Thompson: Stock Exchange aim

Country - which would require increased working capital.

NFC is discussing with its bankers, ways of raising fresh capital. If it were a Stock Exchange listed company now, the bankers might recommend a rights issue from shareholders. But the group's 13,000 holders of almost 83 per cent of the company are employees and NFC has already promised it

would not ask them to put up fresh cash, or go for a Stock Exchange listing before 1987.

The shareholders gather today in the 2,500-seat Grand Hall at Wembley Conference Centre in London for NFC's second annual meeting. Since the buy-out, shareholders have seen the value of their shares quadruple to an effective £4 each. Today, approval is likely for the shares to be divided again into two, making their value a more manageable £1 each.

NFC's net debt over shareholders' funds was put at 110 per cent last month.

If NFC were to be chosen as the Sealink buyer, the structure of the small equity stake and later option to buy, would keep Sealink's debts off the NFC balance sheet.

In 1982, these totalled £154m. Some improvement was made last year, but it is still expected that the Government - through Sealink's owners British Rail - would need to write off about £78m to make the company attractive.

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Property sale helps to more than double Compco profits

More than doubled pretax profits are reported by Compco Holdings, the Edinburgh property investment and development concern, for the half-year to September 25, 1983. They climbed from £199,000 to £469,000, while earnings per share also more than doubled, to 10.9p, against 4.52p last time.

Net rental income showed only a slight rise, from £274,000 to £279,000. But, this year, there was a profit of £266,000 on the sale of property, while there was no similar profit last time.

However, the board reports that no further sales of this kind are envisaged in the second half-year, during which rental income is expected to be comparable with the previous year.

Compco's pretax profits reached a record of £486,000 in 1981-82, but then fell £298,000 in the following year.

In brief

● **Electronic Machine:** Mr Peter Anninos, the chairman, told the annual meeting that the current year should show pleasing progress. However, the early months had been held back by further trading difficulties in the precision engineering offshoot. These had largely been overcome but the main benefit should not be expected until the second half of the year.

Certain big orders are in course of negotiation.

The contract for the sale of the property at Thornton Heath, south east London, is

due for completion this month. The proceeds of about £200,000 should, for the first time in memory, put the group into the black with its bankers.

● **TR Energy** is to take over the oil and gas interests of Interoil Inc., a subsidiary of TR Pacific Basin Investment Trust. The assets have been acquired with effect from Oct. 1, 1983; the total value is £756,000, satisfied by the issue of 1.8 million shares in TR. This will be about 8.3 per cent of the enlarged capital. Completion is expected by March 12.

● **Hill and Smith Holdings:** Mr John Silk, the chairman, reports in his annual statement that steel stock-holding remains in a depressed state. This division will, at best, make only a small contribution to the profit for the first half-year and there is nothing to indicate that there will be any significant change in the second half.

Demand for Hill's fabricated products in the form of road safety barriers, security fencing and steel linings is good and if demand remains at, or near the present levels, the contribution for the year from the fabrication division will be substantial.

● **Squibb Corporation** reports record sales and earnings for the fourth quarter and the year. In 1983, sales rose 7 per cent to \$1,768.9m (£1,210m). Excluding the effect of exchange rate fluctuations, sales would have increased by 12 per cent in 1983. Profit from operations rose 22 per cent to \$255.6m and income before extraordinary items rose 13 per cent to

£173.3m. Earnings per share reached \$3.30, up from \$3.01 in 1982.

● **Francis Parker - Tarmac:** As the recommended offers by Tarmac Roadstone for Francis Parker have become unconditional and as acceptances have been received over 90 per cent of the ordinary and the deferred shares of Parker, Tarmac Roadstone intends to compulsorily acquire the remainder.

● **Watsham's** reports that pretax profits rose from £537,000 to £603,000 in the half-year to September 30, 1983. Turnover expanded from £2,92m to £3,43m. The interim payment, net, is going up from 3.75p to 4.12p a share; earnings per share rose from 12.5p to 14p. Watsham's makes products for optical, instrumentation and industrial safety industries.

● **Bell Resources/BHP:** The partial bid for Broken Hill Proprietary of Australia by Bell Resources will close on Monday with about 6 million acceptances. The tender offer for 16 million shares will end after five trading days, regardless of the outcome of BHP's challenge to the bid in the Victorian Supreme Court.

● **Don Brothers, Buist:** Half-year to Nov 25, 1983. Interim payment raised from 1.25p to 1.5p net a share. Figures in £000. Turnover 17,095 (12,603). Trading profit 784 (320). Grants 75 (77). Pretax profit 859 (397). Tax 447 (169). Earnings per ordinary share 6.3p (3.5p).

Electrolux in talks on TI merger

By Andrew Cornelius

TI Group, one of Britain's leading engineering companies, and Electrolux, the Swedish white goods manufacturer, are discussing a possible merger of their domestic appliance interests.

Sir Brian Kellett, chairman of TI, met Mr Werdn, chairman of Electrolux, for preliminary discussions in London yesterday. Electrolux, confirmed at the meeting that it is the mystery bidder behind the recent rising TI share price and has acquired a 3 per cent stake in the British group.

Sir Brian said he had been informed that Electrolux had no present intention of adding to its holding or making a takeover bid. The next step would be to establish a joint working group to study possible common interests in the field of domestic appliances. This would be followed by a further meeting between the two chairmen.

TI and Electrolux have cooperated before. TI has marketed Electrolux vacuum cleaners and refrigerators, while Electrolux has marketed TI washing machines.

A merger of the two domestic appliance businesses "is obviously possible," said Sir Brian, but warned that "equally nothing may come of discussions."

Speculation of a possible takeover bid for TI began two weeks ago after heavy trading of TI shares on the London stock market.

Booker sells drink business for £40m

By Jonathan Clare

Booker McConnell has sold its entire wines, spirits and liquors business - which includes the Tia Maria and Lamb's Navy Rum brands - to Allied-Lyons for more than £40m.

This followed an approach by Allied to Booker which has been streamlining its business to concentrate on food distribution, agriculture and health foods.

The sale will leave Booker with a much reduced interest in the Caribbean, which was once one of its most important trading areas.

The City had expected that the drinks interests would be kept alongside the food distribution business which includes the Budget supermarkets and Bishops Group stores.

Yesterday, Mr Michael Caine, Booker's chairman, said the sale was not opportunistic but resulted from a re-appraisal of the drink business' future. He said: "The price offered

was extremely attractive. Looking ahead we could see increasing distribution costs and, therefore, economies of scale could only be achieved within a bigger business. This meant either selling it or expanding it."

Tia Maria, a coffee liqueur, has been extremely successful but Mr Caine believed that the period of rapid growth was over. He also said that dark rum's share of the market had declined from 6 per cent to 4 per cent between 1972 and 1982.

The deal is in two parts: Allied is buying the wholly-owned subsidiaries, United Rum Merchants and European Vintners, for £25.1m cash raised through a placing of 17.6 million shares. It is also buying Booker's 51 per cent interest in Tia Maria and Estate Industries for £14.7m but subject to agreement by the Caribbean minority shareholders which have first refusal on Booker's stake.

£14.4m United Glass loss

United Glass lost £14.4m last year, it was announced yesterday. The losses compare with a deficit of £5.3m the year before and were struck after charging redundancy payments of £12.5m.

United Glass, a big manufacturer of glass and plastic containers, is jointly owned by the Distillers' Company and Owens-Illinois.

WALL STREET

Stock	Price	Change	Stock	Price	Change
AMEX Inc.	100	+	Pa. Power Corp.	25	+
Am. Bank	100	+	Pa. Electric	25	+
Am. Can.	100	+	Pa. Gas	25	+
Am. Chem.	100	+	Pa. Steel	25	+
Am. Citicorp	100	+	Pa. Tel.	25	+
Am. Gen. Corp.	100	+	Pa. Transp.	25	+
Am. Int'l.	100	+	Pa. Water	25	+
Am. Life Ins.	100	+	Pa. Elec. & Gas	25	+
Am. Oil	100	+	Pa. Gas & Elec.	25	+
Am. Paper	100	+	Pa. Steel & Wire	25	+
Am. Real Estate	100	+	Pa. Tel. & Tel.	25	+
Am. Sec. Corp.	100	+	Pa. Transp. & Elec.	25	+
Am. Shiping	100	+	Pa. Water & Elec.	25	+
Am. Tobacco	100	+	Pa. Elec. & Gas	25	+
Am. Travel	100	+	Pa. Gas & Elec.	25	+
Am. United	100	+	Pa. Steel & Wire	25	+
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Mortgages

Banks still offer a better deal

Lower mortgage rates from the building societies now do not look so likely. Thus the banks still offer a much more competitive package.

Most offer 0.25 per cent less than 11.25 per cent that the societies charge. The banks claim that on an APR basis the societies look even less appealing; they say the home owner is in effect paying an extra 0.5 per cent above the quoted building society rate.

One of the most attractive aspects of a home loan from the bank is that the banks welcome bigger mortgages and do not charge a premium rate for them as do the building societies. The banks nearly all have a £100,000 loan limit, but so long as the mortgage can show he can meet repayments and has been a customer of the bank for six months, he can be lent anything up to 80 per cent of the property's value. Bank loans may also take less time to arrange than the average building society loan.

One snag of going to your bank, though, is that there is an arrangement fee which the building societies do not charge.

Barclays says that about 20 per cent of its mortgages are for £60,000 and above, and will lend up to 2½ times the main income plus one times the lower

Hilaire Gomer

Fringe benefits

Luncheon vouchers, free parking in the office car park, a company flat, medical fees insurance—these and other perks are reviewed in the latest guide from the Institute of Chartered Accountants under the title *Fringe Benefits*.

The current United Kingdom taxation of fringe benefits is dealt with in detail—particularly the taxation of motor cars and fuel, beneficial loan arrangements and share and options together with recent amendments to the law on scholarships provision and payment of directors' PAYE.

The booklet (56 pages) is available from the Publications Department, The Institute of Chartered Accountants, PO Box 433, Moorgate Place, London EC2P 2BJ. Price £5.

Skipton auto-cash

Skipton Building Society is one of the latest—albeit smallest—building societies to offer credit cards to its members. Skipton is linking up with Barclaycard to give members 24 hours a day access to cash through the Barclays automated teller machines.

There will be no joining fee for those applying for a Barclaycard nor will they have to open a special Skipton account. They will, however, have to meet the normal credit-rating criteria.

Be a farmer

Yet another opportunity to get tax relief on buying a stake in a farm—this time from New Farm Estates. One-pound shares in New Farm Estates are on offer at £2.10 each and the investment should be eligible for tax relief under the Business Expansion Scheme, says New Farm.

"New Farm Estates invests purely in land for reclamation and improvement and the company's first acquisition of land has shown a satisfactory increase in value following reclamation and improvement work, says the company.

The purpose of the issue is to provide additional funds for the continued expansion of farming activities. Details from New Farm Estates, 32 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9FF.

Society mergers

The number of building society mergers continues to escalate and is likely to increase still further after the enforced closure of New Cross. There were 273 societies at the end of 1983. The total dropped to 227 by the end of 1983.

Bonus at the Co-op

It's amazing what some people will do to save money, like the Co-op offers members a 10 per cent reduction on holidays booked through its travel department. In addition, members get a £5 voucher usable in the "non-food" division of the society, for every £50 spent on the holiday.

"We regularly book summer cruises to the Caribbean for a member who lives in Andorra and this one member travelled from Inverness, where he lived, to Skeiston to pick up his free video—cassette recorder said Mr Kenneth Scott of the Skeiston Co-op.

"He clearly thought that in spite of the distance he had to cover, it was worthwhile booking his holiday with us rather than with his local travel agent."

Insurance drive

Monday sees the start of Motor Insurance Week, sponsored by the British Insurance Brokers Association (Biba) to encourage motorists to discuss their insurance needs with an insurance broker.

Mr Michael Morris, director-general of Biba, said: "There are about 20 million licensed vehicles on the roads in Britain today, and each must by law be driven only by someone who has insured his liability against injuries to a third party, including his passengers. By far the best person to find the right policy at the right price for any particular driver is an insurance broker."

Long loans

A three-year income bond paying 8.25 per cent net of basic rate tax is available from the Insurers British National Life with 8 per cent on offer for six, seven and eight-year investments. Details from British National Life Assurance Company, British National House, Harlands Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 1TD.



The new silver dollar from the Royal Canadian Mint

Silver dollar

The Royal Canadian Mint issues a silver dollar annually and this year's coin marks the 150th anniversary of Toronto. The coin, which costs £1.60 for a proof coin or £13.50 for a brilliant (extra shiny), shows the Toronto skyline with the distinctive CN tower—the Canadian version of the Post Office tower.

The coin will be minted until the end of November. In the Queen's silver jubilee year, 700,000 were minted but last year when the coin celebrated university students' sports only 340,000 were produced. Students are not too popular with numismatists.

The 23.33 gramme coins are half silver and half copper and are being marketed in Britain by direct mail advertising.

Guide to listing

It's much cheaper to be quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market than to go for a full Stock Exchange listing, Arthur Andersen, the accountant, has just updated its excellent *Guide to the Unlisted Securities Market* which provides background information and lists technical requirements for obtaining a USM quote.

The guide looks at the tax advantages and accounting and reporting requirements as well as the practical aspects of market entry. The book is available from Arthur Andersen's Publications Department, 1 Surrey Street, WC2R 2PS.

Golden future

The price of gold has bottomed out, according to Mr Michael Long of the stockbrokers Sheppard & Chase.

Although a silver dollar, low inflation and high interest rates at present dominate the market, Mr Long believes the gold price may be set to turn. Assuming there is a correlation between the price of gold and the strength of the dollar, the latter's decline is inevitable against the backdrop of a record US Federal deficit of \$200,000m (£138,000m) and a record trading deficit of at least \$100,000m. Mr Long says in this month's *Kruggerand Bulletin*, Mr Long believes that the consequence will be a dollar that will fall out of favour, setting the scene for a steady appreciation in the gold price this year.

Hospital on the BES

An investment in a private hospital at Little Aston, Staffordshire, is the latest deal seeking finance under the Business Expansion Scheme. Guinness Mahon is issuing the prospectus, which is offering 1.3 million £1 shares at £1.80 each. Tax relief is available on up to £40,000 invested in a BES scheme. The offer will close no later than March 30.

Policy sale

The auctioneers Foster and Cranfield are holding one of their periodic sales of life assurance policies, annuities and interests in trusts on Thursday. At these sales beneficiaries of trusts are prepared to sell their interests, policyholders put their life assurance up for sale to the highest bidder rather than surrender it, and the buyer can acquire an interest in someone else's life policy or family trust. Full details from Foster and Cranfield, 6 Poultry, London EC2R 8ET.

Disability plea

The cost of raising a mentally-handicapped child can be as high as £130,000, reports the Disabling Income Group, compared with £70,000 for a non-disabled child. The group is calling for a "national disability income" to compensate parents.

Lagging behind

Insurance brokers are behind other industries in the use of new technology, according to a survey by Taylor Nelson Financial.

It says that insurance brokers' usage and planning for computer-based quotes compares unfavourably with other industries such as travel agents. The survey says that "although there has been considerable publicity and discussion about computer-based quoting, and facilities have been available for years through bureaux or to company branches, only one in three broker establishments has such facilities".

The survey, which covers both registered brokers and non-registered insurance consultants, adds that computer quoting is used more by brokers in the North of England and Scotland than in other parts of the country. "But less surprisingly, it was used more for general insurance quotes than for life assurance."

Pensions warning

One third of the country's self-employed could face a harsh retirement because they have no pension, according to a survey commissioned by Commercial Union.

A total of 85 per cent of the country's self-employed have no pension to look forward to and more than 20 per cent of those with pension plans are not putting enough into them, the survey reveals.

Clearly a high proportion of the 35 per cent who are currently making no provision for retirement will be at the lower end of the age scale—almost certainly under the age of 40. But it has been calculated that unless you put away in a pension plan the maximum allowable for the whole of your working life, after the age of 44, a self-employed person cannot hope to retire on the two-thirds final salary that employed people may enjoy.

"From our survey, most self-employed people appear to expect 80 to 70 per cent of their pre-retirement earnings as a pension, but few are making the necessary financial commitment to provide this," commented Mr Peter Ward, of Commercial Union.

Taxing the poor

The poor in Britain are taxed more heavily than anywhere else in Europe, according to a Low Pay Unit report, which shows that taxes have reached record levels, and that most of this increased tax burden has fallen on those with below-average earnings. The report says: "While the wealthy have enjoyed substantial tax cuts, the number of families caught in the poverty trap has more than doubled."

Setting the Record Straight, available from the Low Pay Unit, 9 Poland Street, London W1V 3DT, price £1.20 including postage.

Hints for elderly

Given the choice, most people would prefer to stay put in their own homes as they get older, rather than go to an old people's institution.

Help for Older Home Owners, published by Age Concern, gives useful hints on repairs and maintenance, heating and insulation, adaptations to make life easier, the raising of the finance for essentials. It also contains a useful list of addresses and is available from the Marketing Department, Age Concern, 80 Piccadilly Road, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 3LL (price 55p including post).

Trusts for income

Two unit trusts designed to provide income and capital growth have been launched this week—Warburg's Mercury Income Fund and Save & Prosper's American Income and Growth Fund.

Warburg's fund aims to produce its income and growth mainly from British equities while the Save & Prosper fund will be invested in US convertible bonds, preference shares and traded options. Convertibles are less volatile than the underlying ordinary shares and should give investors the opportunity for steady income and capital growth.

The Save & Prosper fund will be invested largely in technology, health care, specialist retailing, entertainment and cyclical stocks, and will be 50 per cent hedged against currency fluctuations.

Initial gross yield on the Mercury fund will be 6 per cent, while Save & Prosper is going for 5.5 per cent on its trust.

Investment

Offshore funds win tax relief

Investors in offshore commodity and venture capital funds have been granted substantial relief from the draconian measures introduced as part of the clampdown on tax avoidance.

The tax changes introduced last November were designed to stem the massive export of capital into the offshore "roll-up" funds which turned highly-taxed income into capital gains. But because they applied to all offshore funds, they had the effect of making commodity funds and venture capital funds so unattractive to private investors that fund managers feared wholesale withdrawals.

Under the changes undistributed income "rolled up" within the fund was subject to income tax rates, rather than capital gains tax rates.

But modifications announced this week by Mr John Moore, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, mean that only half the profits from commodity trading will have to be distributed and taxed as income. The remaining 50 per cent will be rolled up as before and taxed at the more advantageous capital gains tax rates.

Venture capital funds were caught by the requirement that not more than 10 per cent of their portfolio could be invested in any one company, if they wanted to qualify for exemption from the new regulations and obtain "distributor" status.

Distributor status is an Inland Revenue clean bill of health which certifies that they are distributing all their income and not rolling it up, and gives the fund exemption from the new rules. From now, it will be possible to take a stake in any non-financial company which at the time of the investment being made is valued at no more than 20 per cent of the portfolio.

Offshore feeder funds which channel money into offshore funds will be permitted to qualify for "distributor" status and so too will funds with subsidiary management companies.

"This is the first time that commodities have been granted favourable tax treatment," commented Mr Roger Butler, chairman of the British Federation of Commodity Associations.

LOOKING FOR INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVICE?

Come to the MONEY CLINIC on March 24 between 9.30am and 12.30pm at the Belfrage Hotel, Orchard Street, London, W1. Meet 12 independent experts including leading stockbrokers, accountants and representatives of Lloyds Bank who will give you individual help. Cost £30 payable to Rosters Ltd., 1 Telegraph Street, London EC2R 7AR. Telephone: 01-588 8802.

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FAMILY MONEY

Building societies

Tax ruling dashes loan rate hopes

By Lorna Bourke

The tax bombshell dropped out of the blue on building societies is bad news for both building society investors and borrowers. At worst it could mean a 1 per cent cut in the investment rate from 7.25 per cent to 6.25 per cent with little or no change for borrowers, who currently pay 11.25 per cent for home loans.

"The effect on building societies is going to be pretty substantial," commented Mr Brian Phillips, Nationwide Building Society's finance manager. "It is incredible that this decision has been taken without any consultation with the societies."

The bombshell arrived in the form of a letter from the Inland Revenue on Thursday announcing tax changes in the way building society's profits on Government stocks are treated. As a result, building societies will no longer pay capital gains tax on gilt profits. These will in future be taxed as trading profits at the special building society rate of 40 per cent.

Since most building societies managed to avoid CGT on gilt profits by hanging on to their Government stocks for the requisite year and a day (after which there is no liability to CGT), the effect of the Inland

Revenue moves will be dramatic.

"It could mean that we need to widen our margins by as much as 1 per cent," commented one building society chief though the general feeling is that it will be somewhere between 0.5 per cent and 0.75 per cent.

Building society margins have been under pressure for some time with the introduction of 7-day and 28-day premium shares pushing up the average cost of societies' money. At this month's meeting of the Building Societies Association Council, there was considerable pressure to change rates there and then to widen operating margins.

In the event, the decision was postponed until after the Budget on March 13 to ensure that the Chancellor's pronouncements held no nasties for the societies. Even before this latest bombshell, they were looking for a 0.25 per cent improvement in their margins, and the extra tax charge will push this figure up to at least 0.5 per cent - possibly 0.75 per cent.

This could mean that the 1 per cent cut in home loan rates that some of the more aggressive building societies were looking for, will now be no more than 0.5 per cent.

"The interest rate hawks were looking for 1 per cent off the mortgage rate and 0.75 per cent off the investment rate," commented Mr Jim Birrell of Halifax Building Society. This would produce an investment rate of 6.5 per cent with homebuyers paying 10.25 per cent. "If we feel we want to cut

the investment rate by 0.75 per cent, the maximum we could hope to reduce the mortgage rate now would be 0.5 per cent."

The most likely rate structure after the Budget will be a 10.75 per cent mortgage rate with a 6.25 per cent investment rate which would give the societies the 0.5 per cent improvements in their margins that they now need. The big dilemma is whether an investment rate of 6.25 per cent with well over half of investors earning 7.25 per cent on "extra interest" accounts will produce sufficient cash to meet mortgage demand.

The grossed-up equivalent of an ordinary share rate of 6.25 per cent is only 8.9 per cent. The effect of such a rate structure would be to precipitate an outflow of money into National Savings Bank investment accounts which currently pay 11 per cent, or a wholesale switch from building society accounts into premium accounts paying 7.25 per cent, which again would destroy the societies' operating margins.

More significantly, there are those who are interpreting the Inland Revenue's moves as a prelude to a hefty tax on bank profits in the Budget, and a possible abolition of the composite rate of tax paid by building societies. It is thought that the main thrust of the Chancellor's Budget changes will be towards equalizing the tax treatment of financial institutions to do away with the special advantages that some enjoy.

Government stocks

Shake-up for gilt market

By Vivien Goldsmith

The Inland Revenue's unexpected tax bill for the building societies could have a significant effect on the gilt market, gilt unit trusts and gilt investors. Building societies hold approximately 25 per cent of all short dated government stocks and the changed tax status of these investments will precipitate a fundamental review of the societies' gilt portfolios.

What might such a reappraisal mean for gilt investors? The Inland Revenue's move to tax the societies' gilt dealing profits at the special 40 per cent rate is seen as yet another nail in the tax avoidance coffin.

No matter what happens in the gilt market the capital growth gilt unit trusts have seen their heyday. The Inland Revenue has warned managers that if they deal too actively they will be classified as dealers, and

that a dealing profits will be charged corporation tax rather than being completely tax free - a similar situation to that now imposed on the building societies.

As the climate of competition heats up on the Stock exchange and large institutions find they can negotiate lower dealing costs, then brokers' running costs may be off-loaded onto the small private investor.



Griff Rhys-Jones in Charley's Aunt and Ben Kingsley in Edmund Kean - both Lyric productions which went to the West End

Theatre

Investors offered a West End gamble

The Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, one of London's best-known community playhouses, is raising £100,000 to enable it to stage its most successful production in the West End. Theatre-lovers are invited to invest in the thrills and spills of West End theatre production through the Business Expansion Scheme - and get tax relief while doing it.

The Lyric is a charity subsidised by the borough of Hammersmith and the Greater London Council and is not permitted to take on the considerable financial risks of transferring a show to the West End.

In the past it has had to rely on outside commercial management to do this in return for a modest fee and a small share of the royalties or profits. So it has formed Lyric Hammersmith Productions, a purely commercial company to reap more of the rewards. And, of course, more of the risks.

The Lyric's administrator, Mr Robert Cogo-Fawcett, said: "The Lyric is essentially a community theatre but we have a very good record of transfers

to the West End. Forming a new company under the Business Expansion Scheme seemed the best way to exploit this success for the benefit of the Lyric itself, and investors.

"If we raise enough money to handle West End productions ourselves, we won't have to rely on a producer taking a liking to a show. We will be able to attract a better creative team if they know the play has a good chance of going to the West End under our own steam. Because we ourselves will be producing or co-producing we can plan a transfer much more economically."

"The new company will get all the profits if the show is a success. This will benefit the Lyric because it has a quarter shareholding." The company is already halfway to its £100,000 target.

But backing West End productions can be hazardous as Mr Cogo-Fawcett is the first to admit, though the new BES scheme is probably less risky for investors than the traditional "Angel" system.

"We tried to get away from the angel concept," he says.

"Investment in this company is not linked to any one particular production - we expect to transfer about three plays to the West End each year."

Angels put all their eggs in one basket and the profits are split 60-40 between them and the producer. The new company will get 100 per cent of the net profits - after the Lyric has received its usual fee and royalties.

Because it is done through the Business Expansion Scheme, investors can get full tax relief on the money they put in - quite different from the angel system where there are no tax concessions. Shares are £1 each and the minimum holding is £500.

The new play opening at the Lyric next week, *The Man Who Fell in Love With His Wife* starring Tom Bell, is expected to be one of the first productions going to the West End under the new scheme. The Lyric can point to a string of past successes.

Eleven Lyric productions have gone to the West End in the last four years - about a third have made a profit, the

rest have broken even. But Mr Cogo-Fawcett says the Lyric does not plan its programmes with the West End uppermost in mind. "We don't intend to depart from our community function here. It's just that so many of our productions seem to have a life of their own, attracting much more general interest."

Recent transfers have included plays as diverse as *Charley's Aunt* and *Miss Julie*. "We were lucky with our production of *Kean* which starred Ben Kingsley, and it's got a lot of attention because of *Gandhi* and the Oscar."

Critical success and profits, however, are not the same thing. What about the well-known risks involved in theatre production? The new company does not intend to sink more than half its capital in any single production. In fact it will probably share the burdens of financing most transfers with another commercial producer, which again reduces the risk.

For instance, the cost of transferring a play could be £60,000, of which the new company would put up half.

Running costs of £1,600 a week would again be split with the co-producer.

If the play managed 60 per cent capacity audience for 26 weeks, there could be a very healthy profit of nearly £100,000, half of which would go to the new company, which would be a good return on its original £30,000 outlay.

If the play flopped however, it would lose that £30,000 plus the running costs for however long it was on. "In reality, we could never lose a very large amount," says Mr Cogo-Fawcett. "If you are losing money, you just close down."

Investment in Lyric Hammersmith Productions is subject to the usual rules of the Business Expansion Scheme. You can obtain full tax relief on up to £40,000 a year invested. The shares must be held for five years. Details are available from the Company Secretary, Lyric Hammersmith Productions, Lyric Theatre, King Street, Hammersmith, London, W6 0QL.

Margaret Drummond

New from Save & Prosper

THE FIRST HIGH INCOME U.S. UNIT TRUST

Unit trusts investing in America have almost always aimed exclusively for capital growth. Now, Save & Prosper American Income & Growth Fund offers you the opportunity to secure a high income from US securities and to enjoy excellent prospects for capital growth. The Fund's high yield should make it of special interest to trustee investors.

5.5%

ESTIMATED GROSS STARTING YIELD

The Fund will have an estimated gross starting yield 50% higher than typical US funds (5 times higher than most) and greater than the F.T.A. All-Share Index.

The Fund will invest across a broad range of higher-yielding securities, but mainly in convertible bonds of companies in selected growth sectors of the economy. As explained below, this should mean that the Fund involves a lower element of risk than a fund invested solely in equities, while still offering significant growth potential.

OPENING UP NEW OPPORTUNITIES

In March 1964 we launched the first authorised British unit trust to invest solely in the USA. Subsequently 60 similar funds were launched but Save & Prosper US Growth Fund remains the largest of its kind.

We believe that American Income & Growth Fund will prove to be equally important in opening up new opportunities, particularly for investment in the US

convertible market. During 1983 the number of new issues was more than 50% up on 1982 and we expect further increases in 1984, including a good number of the newer growth companies. The importance of convertibles is likely to increase sharply for four main reasons:

1. They offer a high level of income with long-term capital growth prospects.
2. Their price can increase both when interest rates fall and when the corresponding ordinary share price rises.
3. They provide more secure income than equities should the market fall.
4. They are less volatile than ordinary shares.

HOW THE FUND WILL INVEST

The Managers will invest in five main types of securities:

US convertible bonds—Fixed-interest securities offering the option to convert into ordinary shares at a fixed price over a specified period.

US convertible preference shares—Preference shares which can be converted to ordinary shares at a fixed price during a specified period.

High-yielding US shares—Selected on their merits, not merely for their yield.

Fixed-interest bonds—Chosen on interest rate considerations.

Traded options—To be used by the Managers to reduce risk, not as speculative investments. The Managers will employ computer-based strategies which they have developed and which have already proved profitable for investors in Save & Prosper US Growth Fund.

It is anticipated that equity-linked investments will initially be made in the following industry sectors:

Technology Healthcare
Specialist Retailing Cyclical
Leisure Industries

To reduce the effect of any exchange rate fluctuations the Fund will initially be hedged 50% against the US dollar through the use of back-to-back loans. This proportion will be kept under constant review.

A GOOD TIME TO INVEST

After the marked gains on US stock markets up to June 1983, prices of many stocks have fallen significantly. At these levels, the US market provides significantly better value than many other world markets. Although the strength of the dollar and high interest rates may affect the market in the short term, looking further ahead, we believe that it will regain its momentum and that early 1984 will be seen to have been a good time to invest.

ABOUT SAVE & PROSPER

Save & Prosper Group was founded in 1934 and in addition to being Britain's largest unit trust group is also a major force in life assurance, pensions and annuities. On 1st January 1984 the Group managed £1,850 million.

APPLY NOW!

To invest, complete and return the coupon together with your cheque. Units in the Fund are offered at a fixed price of 50p until 16th March 1984.

Remember that the price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

GENERAL INFORMATION

OBJECTIVE To provide a portfolio of higher-yielding securities invested in the growth areas of the United States economy.

DEALING IN UNITS Units may normally be bought or sold on any working day. Certificates will normally be forwarded within 14 days. When units are sold back to the Managers, payment is normally made within 7 days of our receiving renounced certificates. Prices and the yield are quoted in leading newspapers.

NET INCOME DISTRIBUTIONS 15th June and 15th December each year, beginning on 15th December 1984. **CHARGES** Initial charge 5¼%, plus a rounding of the lower of 1% or 1.25p per unit, which is included in the offer price of units. Remuneration (at rates available on request) will be paid to authorised professional advisers. Annual charge: 1% of the value of the Fund plus VAT (with a permitted maximum of 1.15% plus VAT). This is deducted from the Fund's assets to meet Managers' expenses including Trustee's fees.

INVESTMENT POWERS Under the Trust Deed the Managers may purchase and write traded options, subject to the limitations laid down by the Department of Trade & Industry.

SAFEGUARDS The Fund is authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade & Industry and is a "wider-range" investment under the Trustee Investments Act 1961. Trustee: Bank of Scotland.

MANAGERS Save & Prosper Securities Limited, 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP. Telephone: 0708-66966. A member of the Unit Trust Association.

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Savings

How granny is losing her obvious charms

Last month alone about £15m worth of granny bonds (index-linked National Savings Certificates) were cashed in as investors saw inflation falling and the value of their investment going down, Brian Peters reports.

Holders of index-linked National Savings Certificates, better known as granny bonds, will find the repayment values of their holdings are slightly lower next month than this month. This is because the Retail Prices Index has eased from 342.5 to 342.6, in the latest figures.

There is no cause for panic. For a £100 certificate, the difference in value will be less than the price of a Mars Bar. But it is timely to look again at granny bonds and their place on the investment scene.

During the period of double-figure inflation in the late 1970s and early 1980s, granny bonds were a best buy. Now the arguments for holding them are much less clear cut.

Granny bonds do not pay interest as such. The main key to their value is the movement of the Retail Prices Index. If the index goes up by 15 per cent in a year, the money value of granny bonds will also rise by 15 per cent, and appears to be holding steady. With building societies offering 8.25 per cent on seven-day accounts, granny bonds are beginning to look unattractive.

In a sense, the Government has become the victim of its own success. The appeal of granny bonds has been weakened, because it has been able to bring inflation down and is constantly proclaiming its resolve to reduce it further.

The latest figures from National Savings show that while most forms of National Savings are doing well, more than £50m went out of granny bonds last month alone.

Without the 2.4 per cent supplements that have been added to the value of granny bonds, the outflow would doubtless have been greater.

For high-rate taxpayers, granny bonds are still a reasonable proposition. The return is exempt from all rates of income tax and capital gains

tax. For a 50 per cent taxpayer, the prospective return of about 7.5 per cent, inflation of 5.1 per cent, plus the 2.4 per cent supplement, grosses up to 15 per cent.

For anyone paying tax at the top rate of 75 per cent, including investment income surcharge, the grossed-up yield would be 30 per cent. The only competitor for these savers is 26th Issue National Savings Certificates which pay 8.25 per cent tax free over five years.

Non-taxpayers can do better by switching into another kind of National Savings. The Income Bond, Deposit Bond and Investment Account are all paying 11 per cent or more, without deduction of tax at source. This is in contrast to the building societies, which pay tax which the investor cannot reclaim.

Before granny bonds become attractive to non-taxpayers, either inflation would have to rise sharply again, or interest rates on other forms of savings would have to drop well below present levels.

Basic-rate taxpayers face a more difficult choice. Their return, grossed up, is about 10.7

per cent - hardly a strong inducement by today's standards. And the building societies are offering a higher return, not to mention savings certificates.

Investors who do begin to think in terms of encashing their granny bonds should keep secondary factors in mind. A bonus of 4 per cent of purchase price is added after five years, so anyone whose granny bonds are coming up to their fifth anniversary should wait for that date to arrive. The 2.4 per cent supplement for 1983-84 is only payable if the certificates are held until November 1.

As the autumn approaches, the Government will have to decide its policy on further supplements. This decision will be influenced by the trend of inflation and on the returns obtainable on other forms of savings.

Assuming that the Government wants to keep money in granny bonds and thus avoid some possibly embarrassing refunding, it will have to pitch any future supplements at a level that will give granny bond holders a market rate of return.

However, with all the estimates for inflation settling in the 5 to 6 per cent range, other investments will show a better return for non-taxpayers and basic rate taxpayers - in the shorter term at least.

AFTER-TAX RETURNS FROM FIXED-INTEREST INVESTMENTS

	Non-taxpayer %	30% %	40% %	50% %	60% %	75% %
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Building Society Ordinary Account	7.25	7.25	6.2	5.17	4.1	2.58
Building Society Extra Interest Account	8.25	8.25	7.0	5.9	4.7	2.9
NSB Investment Account	11.0	7.7	6.6	5.5	4.4	2.75
Money Fund*	8.75	6.1	5.25	4.37	3.5	2.9
28th Issue National Savings Certificates	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25
Granny Bonds*	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4

* Average rate
* Estimated return January '84 to January '85, including 2.4% bonus

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Compensation

Court victory on investment advice will open floodgates

A significant victory for small investors was gained in the courts last week when Mr David Craven of Grimsby won his case for compensation for bad investment advice against Lawson Insurance Consultants of Grimsby.

On the recommendation of Lawson Insurance Consultants, Mr Craven invested £1,500 in Signal Life Gilt Bonds. Gibraltar-based Signal Life failed in August 1982 owing an estimated £6m to investors. Because it was an offshore insurance company investors were not entitled to any compensation under the Policyholders Protection Act. The more fortunate majority who had invested in Signal Life Gold Bonds were very promptly compensated by trustees to the fund, Hong Kong Shanghai Bank, which paid out more than £4.5m to reimburse these gold bondholders.

But investors like Mr Craven who had invested in the gilt bond got nothing because this fund had no trustee. Many of the intermediaries who sold the bonds were both Registered Brokers and members of the British Insurance Brokers Association, but in most cases investors have not been compensated by their broker.

Mr John Potter, who has been the prime mover in organizing the investors who lost out, said: "This is an important victory for members of the Signal Life Investors Action Group."

"The outcome of the case was decided on a number of relevant issues, many of which seem common to all cases. It was upheld that an intermediary with expertise in the field of offshore bonds would have been

unlikely to have recommended the Signal Life Gilt Bond because the basic arithmetic did not make sense in relation to the commissions paid to the intermediaries and the accepted definition of gilts."

"Because of the risks involved, brokers and intermediaries should have taken steps to clarify the trustee issue, by contacting the Hong Kong Shanghai Bank which Signal Life claimed was the trustee. Some intermediaries appear to have done this and did not market the bonds."

However, it looks as though it will be some time before Mr Craven gets his £1,500 (plus interest and costs) reimbursed. "Mr Craven's success will simply open the floodgates," said a worried Mr Lawson, who has a further £50,000 worth of similar claims outstanding.

Although Lawson Insurance Consultants were not registered brokers, they did have professional indemnity insurance arranged through the Lloyd's brokers Nelson Hurst and Marsh.

But making a claim on the PI policy will not be straightforward. "We have been fighting our professional indemnity insurers for more than 18 months," said Mr David Lawson, of Lawson Insurance Consultants.

Mr Ron Whitehead of Nelson Hurst and Marsh, who handles Mr Lawson's PI insurance, was very reluctant to discuss the matter but simply said that a common exclusion in all PI policies is "insolvency of the insurer" - which clearly could apply to Signal Life - though he confirmed that professional negligence (which is the grounds on which Mr Lawson is making

his claim) would normally be covered.

Several hundred other brokers and intermediaries will be anxiously watching what happens next. If Mr Lawson's PI insurance does not pay out he may be forced to go into liquidation - a prospect which many other brokers also face.

In the case of registered insurance brokers, the Insurance Brokers Registration Council grants scheme would come into operation at this point and might reimburse investors. But that is a long way down the line for most small savers and is no help to Mr Craven who bought his bond through an intermediary who was not a registered broker.

This court victory for Signal Life Investors Action Group is only the first - they intend now to bring many more similar actions.

But it highlights some very important points for small investors. First, the apparent inadequacy of intermediaries' professional indemnity insurance as a means of compensating investors.

This is totally unsatisfactory.

But more important, it makes Professor Laurence Gower's recommendation that all investment advisers should have insurance cover look decidedly inadequate. Clearly what is needed is a bonding scheme similar to that run by the Association of British Travel Agents which requires agents to put up a cash bond before they are allowed to go into business. Only such a bonding scheme, with its attendant compensation fund, offers any real protection to investors.

WANT TO INVEST WITHOUT TAX? READ ON

City journalists and financial advisers agree. An investment in a tax-exempt Friendly Society is one of the best investment opportunities of the 1980s.

Why? What other form of investment gives you tax relief on your savings; the opportunity to watch your savings grow totally free of liability to all forms of taxation; plus the advantage of no tax liability on the return of your accumulated savings on encashment.

If you are eligible (age 20 to 60 next birthday, and married or have at least one dependent child), you should invest as soon as possible. But with whom? One of these Societies is unique - Savers Assurance.

Interested? If you can save for 10 years, and you want to know why our approach is unique, and why it makes us better, simply complete and return the coupon - TODAY.

To: Savers Assurance Society, FREEPOST, Oldham OL4 1YZ. Telephone: 061-620 1305 & 061-678 1478.

Please let me have details of Savers Tax Free Bonds.

Mr/Ms/Ms _____

Address _____

Age _____ Daytime Tel. No. _____

Evening Tel. No. _____



GOOD NEWS



FOR MARRIED COUPLES BETWEEN 50 AND 75...

You, exclusively, are entitled to a better deal than any other building society offers.

The Leicestercard 50 Plus Account has been designed by the Leicester Building Society expressly to meet the needs of couples approaching retirement age and after.

You need higher than average capital growth or the opportunity to earn a high net income if you are to preserve your standard of living. You need capital security too.

And that is precisely what the Leicestercard 50 Plus Account provides—a higher growth rate than you can get from a traditional building society savings account or the option to receive 10% p.a. net income if you require it.

Find out more about the Leicestercard 50 Plus Account today. When we offer the best deal, why settle for less?



A NET 10% INCOME EACH YEAR

For the first four years, you have the option to take an income of 10% p.a. free of tax from your building society account. If you are a basic rate taxpayer, this is equivalent to 14.28% gross.

You may open an account for as little as £2,000 or as much as £10,000. Remember, the Leicestercard 50 Plus Account is offered only to married couples and one partner must be at least 50, but not yet 75 years old...

...We'll be pleased to explain why you are entitled to earn that little extra—and absolutely without risk. For full information:

RING 01-460 6000

Our phones are manned 24 hours a day.

OR FREEPOST Send us this coupon. No stamp is necessary. We will write back with full details.

OR FREE ADVICE From your local Leicester branch, open throughout the week and on Saturday mornings.

There are 243 branches nationally—see the Yellow Pages for your nearest branch.

To: Leicestercard 50 Plus Account Division, M & P Financial Services Ltd. FREEPOST, BNI 1ZY

I am married and over 50. Please write to tell me how I can boost my current building society returns without risk.

☐ EITHER I would like to take an annual 10% income from my investment

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Name _____

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Leicester Building Society

A member of the Building Societies Association Incorporated with 18 P. Financial Services Ltd. a member company of the Law and Leasing Investment Trust plc

FAMILY MONEY

Employees' benefits

Birthday top-up for sick pay scheme

Introduction of the "new" sick pay scheme, a year ago in April, meant that being off work through sickness would never be the same for most people. No longer would they have to go to the Department of Health and Social Security when they felt ill - the money would come from their employers instead.

Employers now pay out at one of three levels of benefit when employees are off sick. The amount depends on earnings and goes up for the first time from April 6. The new rates from then will be £28.55 where pay is between £34 and £50.49 a week; £35.45 for people paid between £50.50 and £68 a week; and £42.45 for those earning more than £68. This means an extra £1.35, £1.70, or £2 a week, depending on the amount of your wages. On the other hand, people who

get less than £34 a week do not qualify for any sick pay at all. At the moment, this is £32.50. Employers can pay more if they wish, but they cannot pay less than the minimum.

Sick pay lasts for up to eight weeks in any tax year (April to April), or for a total of eight weeks if the illness crosses two tax years. You cannot get sickness benefit at the same time - only when the eight weeks are up. For most people, this means that as sickness will usually last for much less than eight weeks, they probably never have to go near the DHSS.

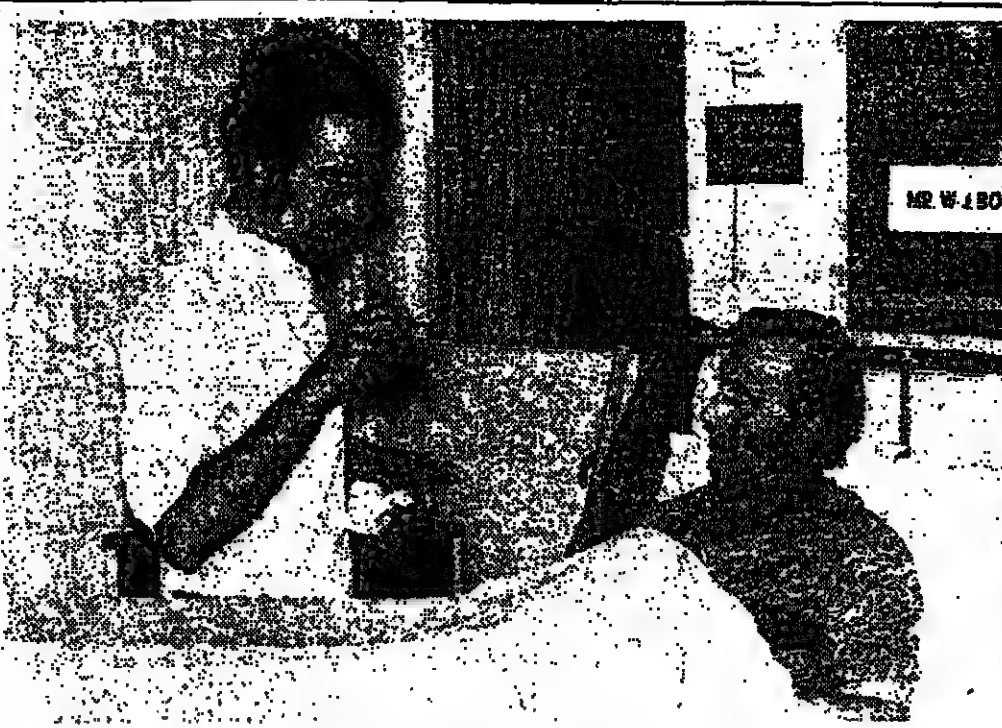
These arrangements do not apply to self-employed people, the unemployed or those who have retired. People on short-term contracts of less than three months are not covered. You may not be either if you have

been getting some state social security benefits shortly before going sick.

It means, too, that the days of getting full pay from an employer and then claiming state sickness benefit on top are gone... for the first eight weeks at least. Under the old arrangements this could have been worth an extra £42 a week to a married man.

Another spin-off from the changeover has been that industrial injury benefit, which used to be paid to people hurt at work, has ended. Instead, anyone injured at work simply gets sick pay instead, followed in the normal way by state sickness benefit after the eight-week sick period is up.

One group of people who have got something out of the change is working married women who still pay the lower



Sick pay now lasts up to eight weeks - in or out of hospital.

national insurance stamp. Before sick pay came into being, they could get no state help if they fell ill. Now, they get sick pay for the first eight weeks of sickness, just like everyone else. However, they cannot then get

ordinary sickness benefit if they are still ill when sick pay runs out.

The one exception to this is for work injuries. Here a married woman who is still sick after the eight weeks may be

able to get sickness benefit. If she remains ill she can then get the higher invalidity benefit after a total of six months.

Ian McDonald

FAMILY MONEY MARKET

Blank
Current account - no interest paid.
Deposit accounts - Midland, Barclays, Lloyds, Natwest 5 1/4 per cent, seven days notice required for withdrawal. National Girobank 6 per cent. Lloyds extra interest 9 per cent. Monthly income account Natwest 9 1/4 per cent. Fixed term deposits £2,500-£25,000 - 1 month 8.0, 3 months 8.25, 6 months 8.5 per cent. Rates quoted by Barclays. Other banks may differ.

Bank	Rate	APR	Telephone
Allen Harris	8.75	9.11	01 638 8070
Barclays	8.50	8.16	01 628 8080
Bank of Scotland	8.75	9.25	01 588 7777
Barclays	8.50	9.16	01 499 8534
Oppenheimer Simco	8.75	8.94	01 236 1425
High interest deposit account	8.25	8.0	0708 58966
S & P call	8.75	8.94	01 382 8228
Schroder Wang	8.75	9.11	01 382 8228
over £10,000	8.50	9.33	01 382 8228
Teller & Riley	8.88	9.12	01 236 0852
T & R 7 day	8.92	9.16	01 236 0852
Tyndal & Day	8.0	8.30	0272 73241
Tyndal call	8.50	8.50	0272 73241
UT 7 day	8.0	8.04	01 623 3020
Western Trust	8.75	9.11	0752 251162
1 month			

National Savings Bank

Ordinary accounts - interest 6 per cent on £500 minimum on deposit for whole of 1984, otherwise 3 per cent. Investment Account - 11%

interest paid without deduction of tax, 1 month's notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £200,000.
National Savings Certificates 25th issue
Return totally free of income and capital gains tax, equivalent to an annual interest rate over the five-year term of 8.25 per cent, maximum investment £5,000.
National Savings Income Bond
Min investment £2,000 - max £200,000. Interest - 11% per cent variable at six weeks notice - paid monthly without deduction of tax. Repayment at 3 or 6 months notice - check penalties.
National Savings 2nd Index-linked certificate
Maximum investment £10,000, excluding holdings of other issues. Return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail price index. Supplement of 0.2 per cent per month up to October 1984 paid to new investors; existing holders receive a 2.4 per cent supplement between October 1983 and October 1984. 4 per cent bonus if held full five years to maturity.
National Savings Deposit Bond
Minimum investment £500 max £50,000, 11% per cent variable at six weeks notice. Credited annually without deduction of tax. Repayment at three months notice.

Guaranteed Income Bonds
Return paid net of basic rate tax, higher rate taxpayers may have a further liability on maturity.
2 years English Insurance 8.4 per cent.
3 years Capital Life 8.5 per cent.
4 years British National 9 per cent.
5 years Euroline 9.5 per cent.
Local authority yearling bonds
12-month fixed rate investments, interest 8 1/2 per cent basic rate tax deducted at source (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers), minimum investment £1,000, purchased through stockbroker or bank.
Local authority town hall bonds
Fixed term, fixed rate investments, interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers). 1 year Neath 10 per cent. 2 years Kent CC 10 1/2 per cent. 3 years Kirkcaldy 10 1/2 per cent. 4-5 years Tarnside 10 1/2 per cent. Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public Loans Bureau (01-828 7855 5pm) see also on Prestel no 24808.

per cent; Further information from 31 Waterloo Road, London SE1 01-928 7822.

Finance house deposits (UDT)
Fixed-term, fixed-rate deposits, interest paid without deduction of tax. Five-Fifty scheme: 6 months 9 1/2 per cent; 1 year, 9 1/2 per cent; 2 years, 10 per cent.

Foreign currency deposits
Rates quoted by Rothschild's Old Court Ltd. Reserves 0481 28741, seven days notice is required for withdrawal and no charge is made for switching currencies.

Starting US dollar	8.17 per cent
Yen	8.74 per cent
DM	8.68 per cent
French Franc	4.55 per cent
Swiss Franc	11.26 per cent
	1.25 per cent

January RPI: 342.6 (The new RPI figure is not announced until the third week of the following month.)

Pensions

Charity urges delay

No decision on portable pensions should be taken until the total retirement package of occupational and state pensions has been reviewed, Age Concern, says in a critical response to the inquiry into portable pensions initiated by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services.

The charity, which is concerned with the welfare of the elderly, suggests steps for reform of occupational pensions which it claims would solve the early leaver problem without the dangers of portable pensions. The more serious problem, says Age Concern, is that many people are not covered by company schemes and face

retirement on inadequate state benefits. The charity is also concerned that alternative methods of funding pensions will not be examined.

Age Concern criticizes the proposals because the "insurance" principle on which pension funds are based could be endangered by allowing some people to organize their own benefits, and because portable pensions do not offer the security of final salary schemes.

Although portable pensions might encourage job mobility, so could changing the rights of early leavers, Age Concern says. "Most people are no more likely to take an interest in their pension than the average life assurance purchaser."

Self-employed pensions.

Which pension plan you chose could have made £13,233 difference.

The independent magazine Planned Savings' most recent survey of 20 year regular premium with profit pension policies showed The Equitable Life Pension Fund at £37,133 to be once again among the best, 17% higher than the average of our competitors.

One of them produced as little as £23,900, £13,233 is quite a difference.

One of the reasons we perform so well is that we don't pay commission to brokers or other middlemen.

So you'll need to get in touch with us direct. Telephone us on 01-606 6611 or send this coupon FREEPOST.

For The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, 4 Coleman Street, London EC2A 5JT. (I'd welcome further details on your Self-Employed Pension Plan, with 10 Annual Variable premiums, 10 Monthly Premiums, 10 Unit-linked basis alternatives to U.K. modern only.)

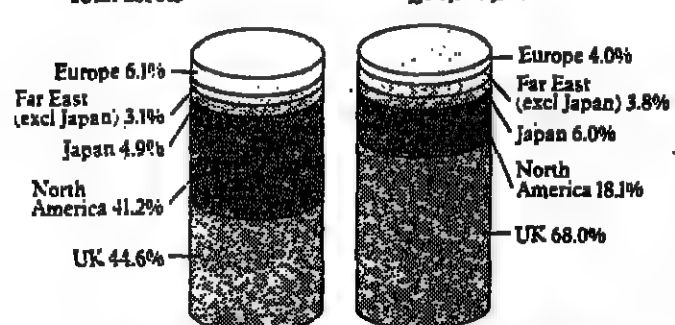
Mr/Ms/Ms Name _____ Postcode _____
Address _____ Date of Birth _____
Tel (Office) _____

The Equitable Life
The oldest mutual life office in the world. BR H4B

The Brunner Investment Trust PLC

Highlights of the year (ended 30th November 1983)

Gross Revenue	£2,746,689 + 15.1%
Dividend per share	1.825p + 8.9%
Net asset value per share	78.4p + 25.2%
Total assets	£50,599,194



Geographical distribution of Investments

Currency Exposure of Portfolio

Investment Objective

The objective is to achieve the maximum capital growth consistent with steady income growth in excess of the rate of inflation from a portfolio which will normally have a significant overseas content. This objective is chosen to meet the normal requirements of individuals and trustees.

MANAGERS

KLEINWORT BENSON INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

Copies of the Annual Report & Accounts are available from the Secretary, 20 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3DB. This year's report is illustrated with charts and graphs and includes a twelve-page Investment Managers' Review.

A member of the Association of Investment Trust Companies.

MCDONALD WHEELER FUND MANAGEMENT LIMITED

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Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
BCCI	9%
Citibank Savings	10 1/4%
Consolidated Credit	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

* Mortgage Base Rate.
† 7 day deposits on basis of tender £10,000. Min: £10,000 up to £50,000. 0% to £50,000 and over 7 1/4%.

Growth or income, plus high security - from Clerical Medical



But supposing income, not capital growth, is your priority?

Then you can use the Plan to provide a regular, very competitive income, part of which is tax-free.

In this case, the Plan is designed to return your original investment in total, free of tax, at the end of your chosen term.

Consider this, too. Clerical Medical was founded in 1824. We're one of Britain's longest-established, largest and most respected life offices, with a record of investment success that's very hard to beat.

And as a mutual office, all our distributable profits go to with-profits policyholders in the form of bonuses.

Your financial adviser can

tell you more about our highly competitive Capital Investment Plan, and some of its special uses: for instance, for making gifts without liability to capital transfer tax.

If you prefer, post the coupon below FREEPOST (no stamp required in the UK), phone 01-930 5474, or enquire via Prestel page 377930.

*Using current annuity, intermediate and terminal bonus rates (as at 15.2.84) which are not guaranteed for the future.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN

To: Tony Rider, Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society, FREEPOST, 15 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4JF. Telephone: 01-930 5474. PLEASE SEND ME DETAILS OF YOUR CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN.

Name _____ Address _____ Postcode _____
Date of Birth _____ Tel. No. _____

Amount to invest: £_____ for capital growth/income

I AM ALSO INTERESTED IN YOUR POLICIES FOR: Regular Savings ☐
Life Assurance Protection ☐ Permanent Health ☐ Pensions ☐
My insurance adviser is _____

Clerical Medical
Life Assurance

I do not cover his wife, house, maid, servant, or ex... only his Capital Investment Plan from Clerical Medical!

There are many good ways to invest £1,000 or more, but one that offers more advantages than most is Clerical Medical's Capital Investment Plan.

You can use it for capital growth or to obtain an income. Over 10 years or more your initial investment builds up into a lump sum which is, under current legislation, completely free of capital gains tax, income tax (no matter how punitive your personal rate may be), or investment income surcharge.

As an example, a man aged 40 next birthday, paying basic rate tax, who invests £10,000 now, could look forward to a tax-free lump sum of £24,982* in 1994.

His investment would be unusually safe, with a steady build up and no unnerving peaks and troughs. This is because the lump sum is made up of an amount guaranteed at the start, plus ten annual bonuses which once added are also guaranteed.

He might even receive a terminal bonus of £6,644* as well!

ARE YOUR SAVINGS EARNING YOU

13.39% NET PA = 19.13% GROSS*

With the Homeowners Friendly Society, you really can reap the rewards of regular saving. Simply by investing in one of our 10 year High Return Savings Plans, your money will grow and grow completely free of tax.

TAX FREE

There are five superlative Plans ranging from £10.30 monthly to £347.26 per annum. They yield up to a massive 13.39% net with no tax liability whatsoever. There are also lump sum plans available.

Each is backed by the security of Bradford and Bingley Building Society - so there's absolutely no risk involved.

And each has the added advantage of built-in life assurance protection. If you are aged between

16 and 70, married, or single with dependent children and are willing to save regularly for 10 years, Homeowners High Return Savings Plans are definitely for you.

Write today and start getting more out of your money.

*FREEPOST, NO STAMP NEEDED.

I'd like to know more about Homeowners High Return Savings Plans. Please send me the facts. Post to Homeowners Friendly Society, FREEPOST, Springfield Ave., Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 5BR.

MR/MRS/MISS (BLOCK CAPITALS) ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

HFS A SAVINGS PLAN FOR ALMOST EVERYONE

Homeowners Friendly Society, FREEPOST, Springfield Ave., Harrogate, N. Yorkshire HG1 5BR.

At current rates of interest and tax relief Gross equivalent for basic rate tax payers. Equivalent yields for higher rate tax payers are even greater.

BRADFORD & BINGLEY

Winterbottom returns in search for balance

The team

Locks hold the key for Orrell in cup

The man who became the voice of cricket is 70 today



Players' eligibility for cup may be reviewed

England allow Romania two warm-up games

for Australia

had declared their unavailability. Despite that his side won one of the three-match international series and New Zealanders were impressed by the attractive Australian style.

However, Australia lost both internationals in their recent tour of France and Dwyer did not help his prospects of re-election by resigning as coach to Radwight at the same time as his national commitment.

Jones, aged 39, managed New South Wales in 1981 and 1982 and received the backing of the strong NSW Union.

New coach for Australia

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The sprig who became an oak in cricket commentary

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Saturday

Television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

Sunday

BBC 1

6.20 Open University. Until 8.25.
6.35 Godfather (1). 9.00 Saturday
Supersport presented by Mike
Red. Keith Chegwin and
Sarah Greene. Today's guests
Stefan Kjellgren, David
Grant, Roger Daltry and
Martin Daniels. 12.12
Weather.

12.15 Grandstand introduced by
David Coleman. The line-up is:
12.20 Football focus. 12.45
News headlines. 12.50
Highlights from the third and
fourth day of the Ashes
cricket match between New Zealand
and England in Auckland. 1.20 and
2.10 Boxing from this week's
bill at the Albert Hall.

1.40 Racing review. Kieran
Pringle examines the Irish
racing scene prior to coverage
of three races from
Punchestown. - The Jack
Piper and Paul Doyle Hurdle
(2.00) the Dineen Cup
Steeplechase (2.30) and the
Ladbroke National Trial
Handicap Steeplechase (3.00);
2.40 and 3.10 Swimming
competition between Great
Britain and West Germany.
3.20 and 3.55 Highlights of one
of this afternoon's State
Express Rugby League
competition between Great
Britain and West Germany.
3.50 Half time. 4.00 Final score.

5.05 News with Jan Leeming. 5.15
Sport and regional news.
5.20 The Red and Emu Show.
Music and laughter from Rhyl
Sun Centre.

5.55 Jim'll Fix It. Jimmy Savile
makes dreams come true for
another batch of lucky young
people.

6.30 Film: The Great Waldo Pepper
(1975) starring Robert Redford
in the title role, a 1920s flying
circus stunt pilot whose
ambition is to outdo the
legendary exploits of the
German flying ace, Ernst
Kessler. Produced and
directed by George Roy Hill.

6.15 The Lee Dawson Show. The
final programme of the series
features Bertie Reading and
the Roly Polys.

8.45 News with Jan Leeming; and
sports results.
9.00 The Old Joy Man. The third
and final episode of the thriller
about George Griffin, an
elimination expert working for
British Intelligence and the
CIA. Tonight he manages to
find a cottage hide-out for a
German, Tauber.

9.50 Wogan. The guests tonight
include David Essex, Victoria
Principal and John Mortimer.
10.40 Match of the Day introduced
by Jimmy Hill. Highlights from
two of this afternoon's first
division matches.

11.30 The Late Night Horner
The Ghoul (1975) starring Peter
Cushing and John Hurt. Two
high-spirited couples have a
car race to Lands End but
before they reach their
destination log brings them to
a halt and into the welcoming
arms of the owner of a lonely,
dark, mansion. Directed by
Freddie Francis.

12.55 Weather.

tv-am

6.25 Good Morning Britain
presented by Henry Kelly and
Toni Arthur. News and
weather at 7.00 and 8.00;
sport at 7.10; Jani Barnett's
pick of the week at 8.30;
George Best at 7.15 and
cocking him from Rustie Lee
at 8.15.

8.40 Data Ram includes news of the
1984 Top Fair; viewers
poems; pop group Slade; and
space cartoons.

LWT/LONDON

9.25 LWT Information. 9.30
Sesario Street. Learning
made fun by the Muppets.
10.30 The Saturday Show.
The 50th programme and the
special guest is Jeremy
Scafe, famous for the odd
anniversaries he imparts on
TV-am. Winners of the Knight
Rider competition talk about
their prize-winning trip to
Hollywood.

12.15 World of Sport introduced by
Doris Davies. The line-up is:
12.20 The US indoor athletics
championships; 12.35 The
National Breakdown Rally,
held in north Yorkshire; 12.45
News 12.50 On the Ball with
Tina St. John and the TV St.
Grainger; 1.20 The TV St.
Doncaster the 1.30, 2.00
and 2.30 races, from Kempton
the 1.45, 2.15 and 2.45 events.

2.55 Darts. The Greene King World
Challenge between England
and the Rest of the World at
Cheltenham; 3.40 a preview of
tonight's fight to be shown live
on ITV at 10.15 between
Briton's Tony Sison and the
French European
middleweight champion, Louis
Acarias; 3.45 half-time scores
and reports 4.00 Wrestling
from Winsted 4.45 Results
service.

5.00 News 5.05 Freggie Rock.
5.35 The Fall Guy. Adventures of a
stunt man turned bounty
hunter. 5.45 half-time scores
and reports 6.00 Wrestling
from Winsted 6.45 Results
service.

6.30 The Play. Young children's
desires are interpreted by
adults.

7.00 2-1 Quiz game presented by
Ted Rogers, this week with a
country theme.

8.00 Film: Silver Streak (1976)
starring Gene Wilder and
Richard Pryor. Comedy set on
board a train travelling to
Chicago concerning a
murdered professor and a
book publisher. Worth
watching for the spectacular
ending. Directed by Arthur
Heller.

10.00 News and sport.
10.15 Boxers. Live coverage of the
fight in Paris between Briton's
Tony Sison and the holder of
the European middleweight
title, Franchnan, Louis
Acarias.

11.15 London news headlines
followed by Rock Concert
before the Afro-rock band,
Osibata.

12.15 Best of Saturday Night Live
with Richard Pryor, the
Muppets and Gil Scott-Heron.
1.15 Night Thoughts from Michael
Meacher, MP.



Leonard Bernstein conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra in
a new interpretation of Elgar's Enigma Variations
(BBC 2, 7.45pm)

BBC 2

6.25 Open University: until 3.10
3.10 Film: The Iron Mask* (1929)
starring Douglas Fairbanks
Senior. Swashbuckling
adventure of the Three
Musketeers. Directed by Allan
Dwan.

4.30 Film: Sinbad the Sailor (1947)
starring Douglas Fairbanks
Junior. Like father, like son.
Sinbad sails himself into a
sword as he goes on the trail
of treasure. Directed by
Richard Wallace.

6.25 Modern Art: Picasso: An Open
University production in which
T. J. Clark discusses the
attempts by Picasso to marry
his left-wing political beliefs
with his art.

6.50 Slight and Sound in Concert.
David Hepworth introduces a
concert given by Aled Jones.
7.30 News from Jan Leeming plus
sports details and weather.

7.45 Elgar's Enigma. In memory of
the composer's death fifty
years ago this month, the
programme follows the BBC
Symphony Orchestra, leader
Rodney Friend, conductor
Leonard Bernstein as they
rehearse for and perform
Bernstein's personal
interpretation of the Enigma
Variations.

9.50 Strangers and Brothers.
Episodes seven and a new
woman enters the life of Lewis
Elliot, Margaret Davidson (1).
10.40 The Light of Experience.
Revisited. Five people who
appeared in the series The
Light of Experience, five years
ago, talk to Sir Michael about
what they have learned in the
intervening years. Tonight's
subject is ex-convict turned
Anglican minister, Roy
Cotchpole, now a vicar in a
working class parish in
Nottingham.

11.00 John D. Loudermilk and his
Music. Highlights of the
singer's concert recorded at
the Kenton Theatre, Henley,
with guests The Furys and
Davey Arthur.

11.30 News.
11.35 Cricket: highlights of the third
and final one-day game
between New Zealand and
England in Auckland. Ends at
12.20.

CHANNEL 4

1.55 Make It Pay How to make
money from a hobby (1).
2.20 Film: Rage in Heaven* (1941)
starring Robert Montgomery,
Ingrid Bergman and George
Sanders. Drama about a school
that has fallen on hard times
and is searching for new
accommodation with the help
of Father O'Malley and Sister
McCarthy. 3.55 Bonanza. A
severe winter hits the
Ponderosa and surrounding
ranches.

4.45 One Night in November. Terry
Webb looks back at the
Children in Need Appeal and
announces the amount of
money that was raised on that
November day. 5.15 Goodbye
Mr Chips. Part five of Chips
and the boarding war.

5.45 News with Jan Leeming.
5.55 Holiday. John Carter samples
the heat and the dust of
the Sierra Nevada, the
beaches of the Costa del Sol
and the streets of Granada.

6.30 Streetwise. The second of
eight programmes on self-
defence.

6.40 Songs of Praise from a
multitude of Portsmouth.
7.15 One by One. Episode five of
the series based on the Zoo
Vet books by David Taylor.

8.05 Mastermind from University
Place. Candidates. The specialist
subjects are - history of
costume since 1400; epic
narratives of R F Delderfield; the
life and works of John Keats.

8.35 The Recreating Series. The
last on the comedy series.
9.05 News with Jan Leeming.
9.30 That's Life presented by
Eather Rantzen.

10.05 Everyman: Your Neighbour's
Son - The Making of a
Terrorist. The story of Michael
Petrou, one of the chief
terrorists of the Greek
Communist regime.

10.45 The World of Cooking. Derek
Cooper unravels the mysteries
of Japanese cooking.
11.15 Phil Silvers as Sergeant
Bilko.

11.40 Weather.

BBC 1

6.20 Open University. Until 8.50.
8.00 Postman Pat. For the very
young (1). 8.15 Sunday
Warrior from the chapel, St
John's College, Nottingham.
10.00 Asian Magazine
highlights young Asian
magician Guru Ragsdale.

10.30 Play It Safe presented by
Jimmy Savile (1). 10.40 Maths
Help. Session 18: Geometry (1).
10.55 Greek Language and
People. Part eight (1).

11.20 Inside TTB. Programme three
of the series on the Youth
Training Scheme in action.
11.45 Madras Jeffery's Indian
Cookery Course. Recipe
three: Lemon chicken (1).

12.10 See Hear! A magazine
programme. A hard
hitting, 12.35 Making the
Most of the Micro (1). 1.00
Farming. 1.25 Taking Stock.
The joys of being 50 in the
1980s (1). 1.50 News.

1.55 Film: The Belle of St Mary's*
(1945) starring Bing Crosby
and Ingrid Bergman.
Sentimental story of a school
that has fallen on hard times
and is searching for new
accommodation with the help
of Father O'Malley and Sister
McCarthy. 3.55 Bonanza. A
severe winter hits the
Ponderosa and surrounding
ranches.

4.45 One Night in November. Terry
Webb looks back at the
Children in Need Appeal and
announces the amount of
money that was raised on that
November day. 5.15 Goodbye
Mr Chips. Part five of Chips
and the boarding war.

5.45 News with Jan Leeming.
5.55 Holiday. John Carter samples
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Communist regime.

10.45 The World of Cooking. Derek
Cooper unravels the mysteries
of Japanese cooking.
11.15 Phil Silvers as Sergeant
Bilko.

11.40 Weather.

tv-am

7.25 Good Morning Britain
presented by Henry Kelly and
Toni Arthur. News and
weather at 7.00 and 8.00;
sport at 7.10; Jani Barnett's
pick of the week at 8.30;
George Best at 7.15 and
cocking him from Rustie Lee
at 8.15.

8.40 Data Ram includes news of the
1984 Top Fair; viewers
poems; pop group Slade; and
space cartoons.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 LWT Information. 9.30 Me and
My Camera. Lord Lichfield
with hints on how to take
group photographs (1). 10.00
Morning Warship from Victoria
Methodist Church, Clifton,
Bristol. 11.00 Getting On.
Magazine programme for the
elderly. This week the subject
is bling in Grimsey. 11.30
Crafts Made Simple. Ken
Ford with the first of a six-
part series about drawing and
painting.

12.00 Weekend World Investigates
the effects of acid rain. 1.00
Police 5. 1.15 The Big Match.
Brian Moore introduces
highlights from two of
yesterday's football first
division matches. 2.00
Encounter Why Neil and
Jackie Bliss gave up a
comfortable life to become
wardens of a Church Army
hostel in central London.

2.30 London news headlines
followed by Film: The Mouse
That Reared. (1960) starring
Peter Sellers and Jean
Seberg. Comedy about an
impoverished European
country's soldiers war on the
United States. Directed by
Jack Arnold. 4.30 Jack
Holburn. Part five of the
adventure based on the novel
of Lord Gerdil, set in the
19th century.

5.00 Builders. Jim Bowen with
another edition of the darts
and general knowledge game.
5.30 Sunday Sunday. Gloria
Humphreys' guests include
Frankie Howard and Leonard
Rossiter.

6.30 News.
6.40 Highway. Harry Secombe on a
multitude of Portsmouth.
7.15 Family Favourites. The
Prize of Branwell meets the
Millers of Merseyside in a quiz
presented by Max Bygraves.

7.45 Film: Fear is the Key (1972)
starring Bryan Newman and
Suzi Kendall. Thriller based
on the Alister MacLean story of
a man out to revenge the
death of his wife, son and
brother. Directed by Michael
Tuchner.

8.45 News.
9.00 Spitting Image. A new series
of topical satire using
caricatures made by the
talented Luck and Flair team.
9.30 The South Bank Show. Melvyn
Bragg talks to the playwright
Trevor Griffiths.

11.30 London news headlines
followed by The Protectors
starring Robert Vaughn and
Rylee Dawn Porter. Harry
Rylee is on a train journey with
a killer. He realises that he is
the killer's intended victim.
12.30 Night Thoughts from Michael
Meacher, MP.



Richard Briers, Penelope Wilton and Peter Egan star in the last
programme of the comedy series Ever Decreasing Circles
(BBC 1, 8.36pm)

BBC 2

6.25 Open University until 1.55.
1.55 Coefax.
3.00 Rugby Special. Highlights of
the match between Bristol and
London Welsh.

3.50 Newsnight's February. Peter
Singer introduces two films
seen recently on Newsnight -
The New Argentina and The
Bergers.

4.40 International Swimming from
Crystal Palace. Highlights of
the Sun Life International
between Great Britain and
West Germany.

5.10 Wales! Wales! The first of a
new series of six films in which
Dai Smith gives a personal
view of the history of the
Welsh.

6.00 News Review. with Jan
Leeming.

6.30 The Money Programme.
Among the items this week is
an examination of the pros
and cons of laying down fire
wires.

7.15 International Pro-Celebrity
Golf. Tom Watson and Kenny
Lynch challenge Greg Norman
and Alex Hogg.

8.05 One Pair of Eyes. The story of
Simon Trehearn, a mentally
handicapped but energetic
young man who believes that
people like himself should be
given the opportunity to lead
independent lives.

8.35 As The World's Stage.
Ronald Harwood examines the
original, bawdy, entertainment
that eventually grew into
poetic drama.

9.30 Did You See...? Everyman's
Hours By The Window.
Hannah Four's diverse
reports and sketches of the
World's A Stage are discussed by
Ian Hamilton, Catherine Freeman
and Terry Hands.

10.15 News with Jan Leeming.
10.20 Film: My Brilliant Career
(1979) starring Judy Davis and
Sam Neill. The first showing
of the Australian-made film about
Sylvia Plath, a young girl
brought up on a farm in the
Australian bush. The film
traces her steps to achieve her
ambition of becoming a
cultured woman with a brilliant
career. Directed by Gillian
Armstrong. Ends at 12.00.

11.50 Closedown.

CHANNEL 4

1.05 The Making of Britain. Dr
Alfred Smyth evaluates the
legacy of the Viking
occupation of Britain.

1.30 Irish Angle. The week's news
as seen by Radio Telefais
Eireann and Ulster Television.

2.00 Tennis: Davis Cup from
Telford. Coverage of the
reverse singles matches in the
contest between Great Britain
and Italy.

4.15 Jack's Game. Jack Charlton
on a day's rough shoot in the
Durham countryside.

4.45 The Motor Show presented by
Chris Goffey and Diane
Goodman. Engine rebuilding
and a quest for a surprise
vehicle are among the items.

5.15 News headlines and weather
followed by 7 Days. Michael
Charlton and Helene Hayman
with guests discuss the moral
and religious values behind the
past week's news.

5.45 Face the Press. Polly Toynbee
of the Guardian and Peregrine
Worsthorne of the Sunday
Telegraph question the Bishop
of Birmingham, the Rev Hugh
Montefiore.

6.15 Tennis: Davis Cup from
Telford. Highlights of the first
round match between Great
Britain and Italy.

7.15 The World at War. Pincers:
August 1944-March 1945.
Wonderful archive film
covering the eight month
period in which the Western
Army was tottering to defeat
but strong enough to crush a
Polish assault and to inflict
crushing casualties on the
Allied forces at Arnhem.

8.15 The Jewel in the Crown.
Episodes eight and nine with
the death of Mahadevi. She
is humiliated and forced to leave
Rosh Cotage (1).

8.45 The First Christmas. Karen
Armstrong, a former nun,
explores the life and teachings
of St Paul.

10.15 Film: The Mystery of Mr X*
(1934) starring Charles Laughton
and Monty Banks. A thriller set
in Victorian London about a
Raffles-type character
suspected of being the maniac
responsible for the murder of
five policemen. Directed by
Edgar Selwyn.

11.50 Closedown.

Radio 4

6.25 Shipping Forecast.
6.30 News: Farming Today.
6.50 In Perspective with Rosemary
Harrell. 8.35 Weather; Travel;
Programme News.

7.00 News.
7.10 Today's Papers.
7.15 On Your Farm.
7.45 In Perspective with
Norman Tozer. 7.55 Weather; Travel;
Programme News.

8.00 News.
8.10 Today's Papers.
8.15 Sport On 4.
8.45 Yesterday in Parliament. 8.57
Weather; Travel.
9.00 News.

9.05 Breakaway. Bernard Falk with
holiday, travel and leisure.
9.15 News. Stand. Review of weekly
magazines.

10.05 The Week in Westminster.
10.15 Daily Service.
10.45 The Week. TV and radio
extracts.

11.35 From Our Own Correspondent.
BBC correspondents report from
around the world.
12.00 News: Money Box.
12.20 The News Quiz. News of the last
seven days, examined by the
people who wrote it.

12.55 Weather.
1.10 Any Questions? from
Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
1.15 Shipping Forecast.
1.20 Minute Theatre "Mary" by
Frances Gray.
2.35 Medicine Now. A report on the
health of medical care.
3.00 Home-Ing. In tips and techniques to
help you save time and money
if you do-it-yourself.
4.30 Does He Take Sugar? Magazine for
the disabled. With Barry
Norman looking at new
technology and its impact.
5.25 Week Ending. Special review of
the week's news.
5.50 Shipping Forecast.
5.55 Weather; Travel; Programme
News.

6.00 News. Sports Round-Up.
6.25 Desert Island Discs. Actor,
Michael York.
6.50 Step the Week with Robert
Robinson.
7.45 Dyslexia need not be a disaster -
A look at the childhood of Sue
Lotus-Brown.
8.30 Saturday-Night Theatre "The
Tiger in the Smoke" by Margery
Allingham.
9.58 Weather.
10.05 You The Jury. Controversial

10.15 You The Jury. Controversial

Radio 3

11.00 Issues are put on trial.
Lighon our Darkness. Paul
Marin reflects on being
Christian in South India today.
11.15 Animal Language. A 15-part
series on sound communication
in animals. Narrated by David
Attenborough (9) Transcripts
will be sent by post.

11.45 A Sidesway Look At... by
Anthony Smith.
12.00 News.
12.10 Weather.
12.15 Shipping Forecast.
12.20 The Ship Shop with Barry
Norman.

ENGLAND VHF with 11 above
except 1.55-2.00pm Weather;
Travel. 1.55-2.00pm Programme
News. 5.50-6.55 Programme
News.

7.55 Weather. 8.00 News.
8.05 Aubrey: Works by Letoux.
8.15 The Piano. A 15-part
series on sound communication
in animals. Narrated by David
Attenborough (9) Transcripts
will be sent by post.

8.05 Record Review. Presented by
Paul Vaughan. Bryan Morrison
examines recordings of Chopin's
Fantasie in F minor.

10.15 Stereo Release. Includes records
of music by John Steinbeck,
Tennessee Williams and Jacob
Garcia.

11.25 BBC Scottish Symphony
Orchestra concert. Part one. Sir
Charles Groves conducts
performances of Vaughan
Williams's Walse and
Beethoven's Piano Concerto No
3 with Karl Ebert. 12.10
Interval reading.

12.15 Concert: part two. Dvorak's
Symphony No. 9. 1.00 News.
1.05 Piano music played by
Jean-Pierre Collard, including
several Beethoven's, Dvorak's,
Elgar and Holst and died in 1934
within the space of four months,
and a new series of 16 weekly
concerts. 1.10 News. 1.15
Interval reading.

2.00 Piano music played by
Jean-Pierre Collard, including
several Beethoven's, Dvorak's,
Elgar and Holst and died in 1934
within the space of four months,
and a new series of 16 weekly
concerts. 2.10 News. 2.15
Interval reading.

3.00 Schubert. String Quintet in C major,
with Amadeus String Quartet.
5.00 Jazz Record Requests with Peter
Clayton.
5.45 Critics' Forum. Anthony Curtis
leads A. S. Byatt, Edward Lucie-
Smith and Clancy Sigal in
discussions on arts, including
BBC2's Strangers and Brothers
series and new galleries at the
National Portrait Gallery.
6.35 Nicholas Danby. First of three
programmes on early romantic
music from the Kloster
Nersheim monastery.

Radio 2

11.00 Martin Stannard. 11.45 6.52
Cricket. 7.50 Radio 2. 8.00 David
Jacobs. 10.00 Sounds of the 60s with
Keith Forde. 11.00 Album Time
with Peter Clayton. 11.50 Sports Desk.
1.00 News. 1.05 Piano music played by
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Interval reading.

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Airman in Cyprus 'leak' inquiry

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Intelligence officers in Cyprus are investigating possible security leaks involving young servicemen stationed at the British bases there.

The Ministry of Defence yesterday confirmed that a Senior Airman of the Royal Air Force, whose name was not released, was "assisting the military authorities" investigating a possible unauthorized disclosure of official information. The investigations are said to be at an early stage, and it is not yet clear whether they will lead to a charge.

Investigations into the matter, are said to have arisen after the aircraftman was lured into a room by a woman, possibly of Hungarian origin. These inquiries are said to have produced evidence of many approaches to young servicemen by women.

refused to comment on suggestions of a Russian-backed attempt to lure servicemen into compromising situations in order to extract official information from them.

Last year's Statement on the Defence Estimates gave the number of British servicemen in Cyprus as being 4,757, of whom 3,367 were soldiers, 1,375 airmen and 15 sailors. The 100 soldiers of the British contingent of the multinational peace-keeping force, who recently withdrew from Beirut, are now aboard the ship, RFA Reliant, off Cyprus.

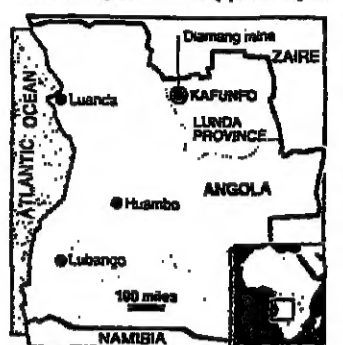
Cyprus is an important communications and intelligence gathering centre covering large areas of the Middle East. If Russia is involved in attempts to subvert servicemen, their efforts would be likely to be concentrated on those involved in communications work.

Unita rebels hold 16 Britons in Angola

Continued from page 1

extracting high quality diamonds from its bed.

There are few other inhabitants in the area and the mine is linked to Dundo, the administrative centre of the diamond mining area, by a continual shuttle flight. It is supplied by a



dirt road from Luanda and convoys of lorries have constantly been attacked on this road by Unita guerrillas. In 1982 they blew up a bridge on this route and have continually threatened to attack the mines.

It is not clear whether the Unita guerrillas which attacked Kafunzu came over the border from Zaire, which offers them support, or whether they are one of the groups which have been infiltrating the eastern border of Angola.

The attack seems to be an attempt by Unita to stake its claim to a part in the negotiations between Angola and South Africa which have led to the setting up of a joint commission to monitor a ceasefire.

Ceasefire inquiry, page 6



Levitating Lendl: voted Sports Picture of the Year in a Sports Council and Royal Photographic Society competition. Chris Cole took the picture of Ivan Lendl for The Times at Queen's Club, London last summer with a Canon A1 camera (300mm lens, speed 1/1,000th, aperture F5.6) on Kodak Tri-X film.

Drivers end blockade in France

Continued from page 1

on the centre-right of the Socialist party, is one of the most popular ministers in the Government. M. Pitarin, a Communist, The Government, which at one time looked as though it was losing control of the situation, appears to have come well out of the dispute, demonstrating firmness with restraint and keeping its sang-froid throughout.

The European Commission announced in Brussels it will back owners' legal claims for compensation.

The six blockades still in place yesterday evening were at Quimper and Brest in Brittany; at Tartas and Melhan in the Landes; at Pouey-Lescar in the Pyrénées Atlantiques; and at Bayat in the Nord Department.

Surprisingly few violent incidents have been reported considering the huge number of people affected by the dispute.

A few incensed motorists tried to storm through the blockades. Two people died but most of the injuries or deaths were accidental. A British lorry was the cause of one such fatal accident near Marseilles early yesterday morning.

At Sallanches, on the approach road to the Mont Blanc tunnel where the blockades had all been cleared, British drivers were toasting the caretaker of the local sports hall, M. Michelle Astier and his wife Michelle, who accommodated dozens of them in conditions so bitter that some of their antifreeze liquid froze. Forty of them gave M. Astier a carriage clock and his wife flowers to show their gratitude.

"If it had not been for the hospitality of these people quite possibly some of us would have frozen to death in our cabs," said Mr Jack Teather of Bradford.

British motorists were given the all clear yesterday to head for the continent this weekend

Patricia Clough in the Italian Alps Juggernauts hit the long road home

Continued from page 1

Waving cheerily, Mr Tony Gover, of Southampton, headed off the great juggernaut towards the Mont Blanc tunnel and home yesterday.

After the French lorry drivers lifted the blockade which had kept him and more than 20 British colleagues stranded at Courmayeur, on the French-Italian border for more than a week.

"All being well, I'll be home tomorrow morning," Mr Gover said.

He was among the first 50 lorry drivers allowed through the tunnel soon after 10am. Half an hour later, the first of another 30 sent through from the French side, drew up at the Italian customs post here.

"No one is going to be keeping to the speed limit today," said another British driver as he watched the first lorries leave. "We all want to be home as fast as possible."

Word that the blockade was breaking up spread like wildfire among the drivers as they awoke in their icy cabins along the high mountain road.

The air soon became thick with choking clouds of diesel smoke from long-idle engines as the great lorries skidded and heaved in the filthy snow.

As a precaution against jams in the tunnel, French and Italian border police initially sent lorries through in batches of 50, but by lunchtime, traffic was flowing normally.

Intense relief spread among the lorry drivers who have become extremely edgy as the blockade wore on and had begun demanding that the British Government fly them home.

There was also relief among the 16 to 20 coach drivers who had been worried as to how they would get their large parties of schoolchildren home.

Among the first to leave

yesterday were Mr Neil Cook and his co-driver, Mr Nicky Jones with their party of 40 children and 10 teachers from Ludlow.

"I don't know what we would have done if they hadn't lifted the blockade," Mr Cook said. "We were going to go through the Bernardo Pass to Switzerland and back via Germany. But we just heard that the pass has been blocked by avalanches."

"We've heard that we can get all the way through France."

Some lorry drivers were biding their time for a few hours, fearing that the road would be closed again and they would be trapped in France.

"I'm going to go ahead but if they stop me again, I shall do something silly," said Mr Gerald Kelly, of London. "I've been here nine days, and I don't want to be stuck any longer."

Down at the carabinieri station in Courmayeur, Mr Cyril Cole, the British Consul in Milan, was handing out money to drivers who had run short. "Their requests were very reasonable, the maximum was a hundred pounds."

Official regulations for lending money to stranded Britons - either to have the money deposited with the Foreign Office in London, or to exchange their passports for a temporary substitute - was waived. Instead, the drivers were being simply asked to sign an undertaking that they would repay the money.

"What happens next is not my responsibility," Mr Cole said; the question of repayment would be sorted out in London. Some of the owner drivers had complained that the blockade was ruining them and that they had no money left.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Solution of Puzzle No. 16,358

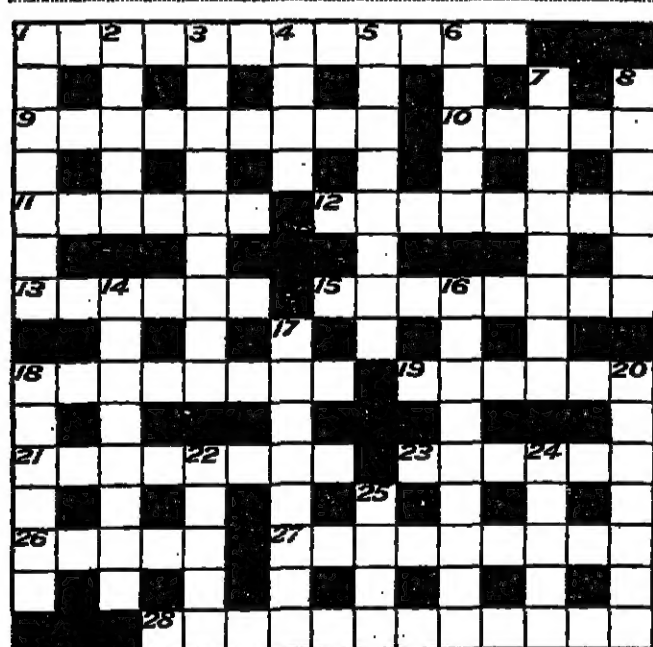


Solution of Puzzle No. 16,363



The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 16,364

Name: _____ Address: _____



- ACROSS
- Article in tree is, perhaps, initially an elusive thing (4-1-3-4).
 - Cling to this delicious oriental drink (9).
 - Where bad drivers can end up (5).
 - To do a favour in return, I'll accept one pound (6).
 - In other words, I am one sailor in a cutter (8).
 - Riddle whose meaning is heartlessly obscure (6).
 - Ball, in a manner of speaking (8).
 - What's left without a memento? (8).
 - Crash the spirit (6).
 - Dance with lout not a publicity stunt (8).
 - Smear with mud the bottom half of a U-boat (6).
 - Surly, wandering deity (5).
 - Travelling, I can take time with books (9).
 - Doctor is tipsy - chart needs rewriting (12).
- DOWN
- Engaging to lose the rest, by implication (7).
 - See the state of the place! (5).
 - Society members love to classify people (9).
 - Welcome shower (4).
 - Miserable, we would go outside to be ill (8).
 - Be off the point? Stuff! (5).
 - Answer to sum not right, not quite (8).
 - Lament about the lady in red (6).
 - I am second, not in time to offer a sacrifice (8).
 - Having been elected, Attlee was harsh (9).
 - Frenzied protest murderer put up (9).
 - Hardy is right to love sculpture (8).
 - Tatiana's moved home (7).
 - Look up about the sappers in battle (5).
 - Become entangled in first-rate fiddle (5).
 - Call for attention loudly, then one gets sound equipment (2-2).

Today's events

Royal engagements
Duchess of Gloucester carries out engagements in Liverpool; as Patron, National Association of Gifted Children visits Mersey Wirral branch, Fiddington Comprehensive School, arrives 10.45; and later opens Thirimer Green Development, 12.10. At 12.55 Her Royal Highness visits Hutton College, Knowsley.

New exhibitions
Tim Whitaker - photographic exhibition: Museum of Lakeland Life Industry, Abbot Hall, Kendal, Cumbria: Mon to Fri 10.30 to 5.30, Sat and Sun 2 to 5 (ends April 22). Sheet and hand-made lace: both at Guildford House Gallery, 155 High Street, Guildford: Mon to Sat 10.30 to 4.50 (ends March 24).

Last chance to see
Printmakers, an exhibition of work by Cheryl Aaron, Anita Ford, Julia Wilson and Pat Schaverien. Playhouse Gallery, Harlow, Essex: Sat 11 to 8.

"Past Imperfect" - work by Marc Camille Chaimowicz: John Hansard Gallery, the University, Southampton: Mon to Sat 10 to 6, closed Sun. The Canadian Landscape paintings selected from the Ontario Heritage Foundation: City Museum and Art Gallery, Drake Circus, Plymouth: Sat 10 to 6.

British Studio Glass, Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow: Sat 10 to 5 (ends today).

Musical
Concert by the Birmingham Bach Society, Birmingham Cathedral, Birmingham, 7.30.

Concert by the Wessex Chamber Choir, Bath Abbey, Bath, 7.30.

Concert by the University Chamber Orchestra, Turner Sims Concert Hall, Southampton University, Southampton, 8.

Concert by the Orchestra De Camera, Benn Hall, Regby, 8.

Eleanor Walford Quintet, Lavenham Guildhall, Suffolk, 7.30.

General
The 4th Bristol classic motorcycle show, Bristol Exhibition Centre, Bristol, 10 to 7, tomorrow, 10 to 7, (until 26 Feb).

Turner and Constable Day School and Conference of lectures and discussions on the work of the two artists, the Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, 10 to 4.15.

Tomorrow
The 4th Bristol classic motorcycle show, Bristol Exhibition Centre, Bristol, 10 to 7, tomorrow, 10 to 7, (until 26 Feb).

Royal engagements
Duchess of Gloucester, patron, Association for Spina Bifida and Hydro Cephalus, attends Night of a Hundred Stars, Theatre Road, Drury Lane, 6.45.

Last chance to see
75th annual Arts Club exhibition the Manor House, Castle Yard, Hildes, Yorkshire: Tues to Sat 10 to 5 (ends today).

In the garden

The best time to propagate seedlings and cuttings is while they are in bloom or after flowering, before the leaves die down. Lift the clump and divide it into individual bulbs and replant them. It is surprising how fast one can multiply these bulbs by division. It is a good time to tidy up flower beds and borders, removing the old, dead, cut-down stems of herbaceous plants and lightly loosening the soil with a hand fork.

Herbaceous plants may be lifted and divided now if one wishes to increase the stock. Michaelmas daisies are best lifted and divided about every three years. Take off and replant single shoots with plenty of roots. These divisions will produce large flower heads while the old clumps will produce progressively smaller flowers each year.

On fine days if you have the energy, give the lawn a vigorous raking with a wire rake to drag out dead grass and decayed grass mowings that have built up into a thick "thatch". Then, in early March, apply the first of two dressings of a general soluble fertilizer.

National Day
Kwai's National Day falls on the date of accession to the throne of Sheikh Abdullah al-Salim al-Sabah in 1961. In June of the same year the state gained its full independence after more than 60 years as a British protectorate.

The pound
Bank Bank
Australia \$ 1.62 1.54
Beyrs 1.62 1.54
Belgium F 35.00 81.00
Canada \$ 1.28 1.21
Denmark Kr 14.70 14.00
Finland Mk 8.69 8.29
France Fr 32.25 11.75
Germany DM 3.99 3.81
Greece Dr 164.00 154.00
Hong Kong \$ 11.78 11.10
Ireland Pt 1.30 1.24
Italy Lira 2470.00 2370.00
Japan Yen 357.00 341.00
Netherlands Gld 1.63 1.53
Norway Kr 11.58 10.98
Portugal Esc 200.00 190.00
South Africa Rd 1.96 1.82
Spain Pta 227.00 218.00
Sweden Kr 12.00 11.40
Switzerland Fr 3.31 3.14
USA \$ 1.51 1.46
Yugoslavia Ddr 211.00 201.00

Notes for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Retail Price Index: 342.6. London: The FT index closed 8.9 up at 815.8.

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A prize of The Times Atlas of the World (comprehensive edition) will be given for the first three correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9PT. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: Mr M. J. Goodman, 54 Church Street, Northborough, Peterborough; R. K. Wilson, 61 Garden House, Cambridge CB3 9AS; J. C. Hicks, 14 St Alban's Avenue, London W4.

Roads

London and South-east: WC2: Large crane expected to cause some delays in the Strand. Wellington Road South, Bloomsbury closed due to sewer work; diversions: A4: Cromwell Road, British Telecom on Coventry-Davenport road at Fosse Crossing, Warwickshire. A34: Temporary traffic signals located south of Newbold on Stour, Warwickshire.

Wales and West: A30: Resurfacing on westbound carriageway Cambourne by-pass, A3611 Single lane and temporary signals on Trowbridge to Hilperton road, Wiltshire. A35: Temporary traffic signals at Bow Bridge on Axminster to Honiton road at Loughwood.

North: A574: Egerton Street in Farworth, Greater Manchester, is closed near junction with Gladstone Road; diversions: A19/A1046: Reconstruction work, Cleveland, north of River Tees. A689: Remedial work to structure of Wakeley Bridge, Wolsingham, co Durham: traffic lights.

Scotland: A91: Single lane north side of St Andrews. A92: Single lane between A914 and A919 junction, south of Tay Road bridge. A92: Northbound carriageway closed, two ways on southbound: one mile north of Glenrothes. Five cars required.

Information supplied by AA

Anniversaries
Births: Carlo Goldoni, dramatist, Venice, 1707; Pierre Renoir, Impressionist painter, Limoges, France, 1841; Enrico Caruso, Naples, 1873; Dame Myra Hess, pianist, London, 1890. Deaths: Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex, executed, London, 1601; Sir Christopher Wren, London, 1723; Thomas Moore, poet and musician, Drogheda, Wiltshire, 1852; Baron Paul Julius von Reuter, founder of the news agency, Nice, 1899; Sir John Tenniel (born Feb. 1820), illustrator (Alice's Adventures in Wonderland), and cartoonist for Punch, 1850-1901, London, 1914.

Births: Victor Hugo, Rouen, France, 1802; William E. Cady, (Buffalo Bill), Scott County, Iowa, 1846. Deaths: Emil Com, pharmacist and psychoanalyst ("every day and every way, I am becoming better and better"), Troyes, France, 1857; Sir Harry Lauder, Strathaven, 1950. First issue of 21 and 22 notes. The tropicbird, Brimhead was wrecked in False Bay off Cape Town; 445 lives were lost of which 386 were soldiers who had paraded in military order on the decks, 1852.

OU leaflets
Leaflets on BBC Open University programmes are available to non-students who send a large stamped addressed envelope to Information Officer, BBC Open University Production Centre, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6BH.

Weather

A ridge of high pressure over England and Wales will extend slowly northwards.

6am to midnight

London, SE, E England, East Angles, Channel Islands: Cloudy with isolated wintry showers; wind NE moderate, max temp 5 to 6C (37-41F).

Central F, SW, NW, central N, NE England, S W Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland: Glasgow, central Highlands, Hebrides: Some overnight patches, rather cloudy mainly dry, a few sunny intervals in sheltered areas; wind, variable of NE light max 4 to 6C (39-41F).

SE, W Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland, Northern Ireland: Cloudy with a little rain or drizzle in places; wind SW, max light max temp 7 to 9C (45-48F). Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: mainly cloudy but dry to north and western districts cloudy with outbreaks of sleet or snow in E and S.

SEA: NASSAGA: S North Sea Straits of Dover: English Channel (E) Sea rough or very rough. St George's Channel Irish Sea: Wind light variable; sea smooth.

Sun rises: 6.56 am Sun sets: 5.32 pm
Moon rises: 3.28 am Moon sets: 11.05 am
New moon: March 2.

TOMORROW
Sun rises: 6.54 am Sun sets: 5.34 pm
Moon rises: 6.54 am Moon sets: 11.52 am
New moon: March 2.

Lighting-up time
London 6.02 pm to 8.24 am
Aberdeen 6.07 pm to 8.24 am
Edinburgh 6.07 pm to 8.24 am
Penzance 6.28 pm to 8.42 am

Around Britain
Sun Rain C Max
Birmingham 4 36 cloudy
Bristol 4 36 cloudy
Cardiff 4 36 cloudy
Exeter 4 36 cloudy
Glasgow 4 36 cloudy
Liverpool 4 36 cloudy
London 4 36 cloudy
Manchester 4 36 cloudy
Newcastle 4 36 cloudy
Nottingham 4 36 cloudy
Oxford 4 36 cloudy
Plymouth 4 36 cloudy
Reading 4 36 cloudy
Sheffield 4 36 cloudy
Southampton 4 36 cloudy
Stoke 4 36 cloudy
Sunderland 4 36 cloudy
Tyneside 4 36 cloudy
Wolverhampton 4 36 cloudy
Wrexham 4 36 cloudy

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in mbars; FROSTS: None. Clouds: Scattered and on easterly side.

YESTERDAY
Temperatures at midday yesterday: a cloud, 1 for 1, etc; a sun, 1 for 1, etc.

London
Yesterday: Temp: mid 6 am to 8 pm, 5C (41F); min 6 pm to 8 pm, 3C (37F); Monday: 6 am to 8 pm, 4C (39F); 8 am to 10 am, 5C (41F); 10 am to 12 noon, 6C (43F); 12 noon to 2 pm, 7C (45F); 2 pm to 4 pm, 8C (46F); 4 pm to 6 pm, 9C (48F); 6 pm to 8 pm, 10C (50F); 8 pm to 10 pm, 11C (52F); 10 pm to 12 noon, 12C (54F); 12 noon to 2 pm, 13C (55F); 2 pm to 4 pm, 14C (57F); 4 pm to 6 pm, 15C (59F); 6 pm to 8 pm, 16C (61F); 8 pm to 10 pm, 17C (63F); 10 pm to 12 noon, 18C (64F); 12 noon to 2 pm, 19C (66F); 2 pm to 4 pm, 20C (68F); 4 pm to 6 pm, 21C (70F); 6 pm to 8 pm, 22C (72F); 8 pm to 10 pm, 23C (73F); 10 pm to 12 noon, 24C (75F); 12 noon to 2 pm, 25C (77F); 2 pm to 4 pm, 26C (79F); 4 pm to 6 pm, 27C (81F); 6 pm to 8 pm, 28C (82F); 8 pm to 10 pm, 29C (84F); 10 pm to 12 noon, 30C (86F); 12 noon to 2 pm, 31C (88F); 2 pm to 4 pm, 32C (90F); 4 pm to 6 pm, 33C (91F); 6 pm to 8 pm, 34C (93F); 8 pm to 10 pm, 35C (95F); 10 pm to 12 noon, 36C (97F); 12 noon to 2 pm, 37C (99F); 2 pm to 4 pm, 38C (100F); 4 pm to 6 pm, 39C (102F); 6 pm to 8 pm, 40C (104F); 8 pm to 10 pm, 41C (105F); 10 pm to 12 noon, 42C (107F); 12 noon to 2 pm, 43C (109F); 2 pm to 4 pm, 44C (111F); 4 pm to 6 pm, 45C (113F); 6 pm to 8 pm, 46C (115F); 8 pm to 10 pm, 47C (117F); 10 pm to 12 noon, 48C (119F); 12 noon to 2 pm, 49C (121F); 2 pm to 4 pm, 50C (123F); 4 pm to 6 pm, 51C (125F); 6 pm to 8 pm, 52C (127F); 8 pm to 10 pm, 53C (129F); 10 pm to 12 noon, 54C (131F); 12 noon to 2 pm, 55C (133F); 2 pm to 4 pm, 56C (135F); 4 pm to 6 pm, 57C (137F); 6 pm to 8 pm, 58C (139F); 8 pm to 10 pm, 59C (141F); 10 pm to 12 noon, 60C (143F); 12 noon to 2 pm, 61C (145F); 2 pm to 4 pm, 62C (147F); 4 pm to 6 pm, 63C (149F); 6 pm to 8 pm, 64C (151F); 8 pm to 10 pm, 65C (153F); 10 pm to 12 noon, 66C (155F); 12 noon to 2 pm, 67C (157F); 2 pm to 4 pm, 68C (159F); 4 pm to 6 pm, 69C (161F); 6 pm to 8 pm, 70C (163F); 8 pm to 10 pm, 71C (165F); 10 pm to 12 noon, 72C (167F); 12 noon to 2 pm, 73C (169F); 2 pm to 4 pm, 74C (171F); 4 pm to 6 pm, 75C (173F); 6 pm to 8 pm, 76C (175F); 8 pm to 10 pm, 77C (177F); 10 pm to 12 noon, 78C (179F); 12 noon to 2 pm, 79C (181F); 2 pm to 4 pm, 80C (183F); 4 pm to 6 pm, 81C (185F); 6 pm to 8 pm, 82C (187F); 8 pm to 10 pm, 83C (189F); 10 pm to 12 noon, 84C (191F); 12 noon to 2 pm, 85C (193F); 2 pm to 4 pm, 86C (195F); 4 pm to 6 pm, 87C (197F); 6 pm to 8 pm, 88C (199F); 8 pm to 10 pm, 89C (201F); 10 pm to 12 noon, 90C (203F); 12 noon to 2 pm, 91C (205F); 2 pm to 4 pm, 92C (207F); 4 pm to 6 pm, 93C (209F); 6 pm to 8 pm, 94C (211F); 8 pm to 10 pm, 95C (213F); 10 pm to 12 noon, 96C (215F); 12 noon to 2 pm, 97C (217F); 2 pm to 4 pm, 98C (219F); 4 pm to 6 pm, 99C (221F); 6 pm to 8 pm, 100C (223F); 8 pm to 10 pm, 101C (225F); 10 pm to 12 noon, 102C (227F); 12 noon to 2 pm, 103C (229F); 2 pm to 4 pm, 104C (231F); 4 pm to 6 pm, 105C (233F); 6 pm to 8 pm, 106C (235F); 8 pm to 10 pm, 107C (237F); 10 pm to 12 noon, 108C (239F); 12 noon to 2 pm, 109C (241F); 2 pm to 4 pm, 110C (243F); 4 pm to 6 pm, 111C (245F); 6 pm to 8 pm, 112C (247F); 8 pm to 10 pm, 113C (249F); 10 pm to 12 noon, 114C (251F); 12 noon to 2 pm, 115C (253F); 2 pm to 4 pm, 116C (255F); 4 pm to 6 pm, 117C (257F); 6 pm to 8 pm, 118C (259F); 8 pm to 10 pm, 119C (261F); 10 pm to 12 noon, 120C (263F); 12 noon to 2 pm, 121C (265F); 2 pm to 4 pm, 122C (267F); 4 pm to 6 pm, 123C (269F); 6 pm to 8 pm, 124C (271F); 8 pm to 10 pm, 125C (273F); 10 pm to 12 noon, 126C (275F); 12 noon to 2 pm, 127C (277F); 2 pm to 4 pm, 128C (279F); 4 pm to 6 pm, 129C (281F); 6 pm to 8 pm, 130C (283F); 8 pm to 10 pm, 131C (285F); 10 pm to 12 noon, 132C (287F); 12 noon to 2 pm, 133C (289F); 2 pm to 4 pm, 134C (291F); 4 pm to 6 pm, 135C (293F); 6 pm to 8 pm, 136C (295F); 8 pm to 10 pm, 137C (297F); 10 pm to 12 noon, 138C (299F); 12 noon to 2 pm, 139C (301F); 2 pm to 4 pm, 140C (303F); 4 pm to 6 pm, 141C (305F); 6 pm to 8 pm, 142C (307F); 8 pm to 10 pm, 143C (309F); 10 pm to 12 noon, 144C (311F); 12 noon to 2 pm, 145C (313F); 2 pm to 4 pm, 146C (315F); 4 pm to 6 pm, 147C (317F); 6 pm to 8 pm, 148C (319F); 8 pm to 10 pm, 149C (321F); 10 pm to 12 noon, 150C (323F); 12 noon to 2 pm, 151C (325F); 2 pm to 4 pm, 152C (327F); 4 pm to 6 pm, 153C (329F); 6 pm to 8 pm, 154C (331F); 8 pm to 10 pm, 155C (333F); 10 pm to 12 noon, 156C (335F); 12 noon to 2 pm, 157C (337F); 2 pm to 4 pm, 158C (339F); 4 pm to 6 pm, 159C (341F); 6 pm to 8 pm, 160C (343F); 8 pm to 10 pm, 161C (345F); 10 pm to 12 noon, 162C (347F); 12 noon to 2 pm, 163C (349F); 2 pm to 4 pm, 164C (351F); 4 pm to 6 pm, 165C (353F); 6 pm to 8 pm, 166C (355F); 8 pm to 10 pm, 167C (357F); 10 pm to 12 noon, 1